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THE ANCIENT BURIAL-MOUNDS
OF ENGLAND





THE HOISED ENTRANCE TO DELAS KNAP LONG RABBIT MOUNTAIN

THE ANCIENT BURLAL-MOUNDS OF ENGLAND

by
L. V. GRINSELL

39162

WITH 24 PLATES AND
11 PLANS AND DIAGRAMMS



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INTRODUCTION

Time, which antiquates Antiquities, and hath an Art to make Dust of all things, hath yet spared these minor Monuments.—SIR T. BROWNE, *Urne-Buriall*, 1658.

Such traces are fortunately of a character that time has dealt leniently with; and would it could be said that man had been equally considerate.—C. WARNE, *Celtic Tumuli of Dorset*, p. 1.

IN many countries and at many periods the custom has prevailed of burying the dead under heaps of earth or stones known as burial-mounds or barrows. It is from these mounds of earth or stone that the archaeologist has obtained much of the material by means of which he is reconstructing the past history of the human race. The study of ancient barrows is a vast one, for in England alone the number of barrows may be roughly estimated at between thirty and forty thousand. Mr. F. Elgee estimates about ten thousand of them on the Yorkshire moors. The literature of the subject is equally vast and is scattered through the proceedings of learned societies, the various county and local histories, and a large number of other works. It is the object of this book to place the gist of this very scattered information in a readily accessible form, and in an up to date and popular way.

A barrow is simply a mound of earth or stones thrown up over the burial of one or more human beings. Examples composed entirely or mainly of stones are called cairns. Barrows are known under various other names in different localities (see Chapter IV). On the Ordnance Survey maps they are marked in Old English lettering as tumuli, except when they have a definite local name, as for example Wayland's Smithy in Berkshire, or Minninglow in Derbyshire. The local name is then given and is generally followed by the word 'tumulus' in brackets.

The custom of erecting mounds of earth or stone over the dead is of great antiquity. In the Old Stone Age there is evidence of intentional burial of the dead, accompanied by grave-goods, perhaps intended for use in the future life; but these burials were generally made in caves, and so far as the writer is aware none of the known burials in the Old Stone Age were covered by mounds.

The earliest British barrow is almost certainly the long barrow, but this may have been derived from earlier examples in Brittany and elsewhere. British long barrows are generally considered to date from about 2200 B.C. until about 1700 B.C., although some students are inclined to place nearly all of the long barrows round about 2000 B.C. It is possible that in the west of England, especially the Cotswolds, long barrows continued to be erected after the Bronze Age had started about 1900 B.C., in the south-eastern counties. The broad-headed Early Bronze Age people, known as 'Beaker Folk', from the hand-made pottery vessels they made, introduced the round barrow into this country about 1900 B.C., and this shape of barrow flourished, off and on, until shortly after A.D. 742 when Archbishop Cuthbert established Christian cemeteries in Britain.

It is probable that all the long barrows and most of the round ones were intended for burial of the nobility of the time. The long barrows frequently contain burials of people who are thought to have been slaves sacrificed at the burial of their chief. Some of the *smaller* round barrows of the Bronze Age may have been erected for the common people, and Early Iron Age and Saxon clusters of grave-mounds were also doubtless intended for burial of the ordinary folk.

Barrows of nearly all kinds tend to be on the tops of hills. Those of the Stone and Bronze Ages are almost confined to hilltops. Some of the Roman ones are in valleys or on level country but near Roman roads, while Saxon barrows are often on hill *slopes*. But it is extremely hazardous to try to date a barrow merely by its situation.

On the chalk downs of Wessex, and to some extent in the outlying country, barrows assume a great variety of forms. Most are shaped like inverted bowls and are therefore called bowl-barrows. Others having a ledge between the mound

and the surrounding ditch look like an old-fashioned bell, and are therefore known as bell-barrows. Those with a very small central mound on a very wide area surrounded by a ditch and bank have the appearance of a large disc, and are called disc-barrows. Bowl-barrows with flat tops are known as 'table-' or more usually 'platform-' barrows. These types and many others will be discussed more fully in Chapter I.

THE HISTORY OF BARROW-STUDY

At this stage of our inquiry, it may be opportune to review briefly the history of the study of English barrows.

Early and medieval investigations and references to barrows were industriously collected by Camden and incorporated in his *Britannia* (1587, 1st ed.). In this work he referred to the Hurlers, Cornwall; barrows on the downs of Dorset; Stonehenge; Silbury; the Rollright Stones; Kit's Coty and Julaber's Grave in Kent; and the Roman barrows at Bartlow and the Stevenage 'Six Hills'.

About seventy years after the publication of Camden's *Britannia*, the finding of some 'sad and sepulchral Pitchers' in Norfolk inspired Sir Thomas Browne, author of the *Religio Medici*, to write a quaint but beautiful discourse on *Urne-Buriall* which remains to this day a literary classic. The work is full of beautiful passages, and also contains a wealth of learning and eloquence, and is full of reflections on life and death, and the future life.

'Were the Happinesse of the next World as closely apprehended as the Felicities of this, it were a Martyrdome to live.'

'If we begin to die when we live, and long life be but a prolongation of death, our Life is a sad composition.'

'We live with Death, and die not in a moment. How many Pulses made up the life of Methuselah, were work for Archimedes; Common Counters summe up the life of Moses his man.'

'Vain ashes! which in the oblivion of Names, Persons, Times, and Sexes, have found unto themselves a fruitless Continuation, and only arise unto late posterity as Emblems of mortall Vauities.'

Browne 'thought he had taken leave of Urnes' when some more were found at Brampton in 1667, and gave rise to a Discourse on *Brampton Urnes*. Browne also wrote a *Tract of Artificial Hills, Mounts or Burrows*, which concludes with the

striking passage, 'Obelisks have their term, and pyramids will tumble, but these mountainous monuments may stand and are like to have the same period with the earth'.

The next enthusiast was John Aubrey (1626-97) who travelled about the country looking for antiquities of many kinds, and wrote the *Monumenta Britannica*, the largely unpublished MSS. of which is in the Bodleian Library. He 'discovered' Avebury. Some of his notes on barrows are incorporated in Gibson's 1695 English version of Camden's *Britannia*.

Next came Dr. W. Stukeley, who wrote *Stonehenge, Abury*, and the *Itinerarium Curiosum*. The intent of the latter was 'to oblige the curious in the Antiquity of Brittain. 'Tis an account of places and things upon inspection, not compil'd from others labors, or travels in ones study'. His archaeological writings are among the strangest known mixtures of accurate observation and the wildest imagination. Druids and serpents formed no small part of his theories. His originality and talented pen begat some quaint 'drafts', 'prospects', and 'ground-plotts' of the various monuments he visited, which included Kit's Coty, the Rollright Stones, the Devil's Den near Marlborough, Silbury Hill, and various barrows in Wiltshire and elsewhere. Possessed of the courage of his convictions, he had no hesitation in labelling, according to his fancy, different barrows as belonging to Druids, Arch-Druids, Bards, Priests, Priestesses, Kings, and so on. To his contemporaries he was 'the Archdruid'. In his garden at Grantham he had a 'temple of the Druids' complete with an apple-tree overgrown with mistletoe in the centre. He became a freemason in order to get further insight into 'the remains of the mysterys of the antients'. Stukeley is certainly the most picturesque figure in the history of English archaeology.

Between 1757 and 1773, Rev. Bryan Faussett, of Heppington, Kent, spent much time in exploring a number of grave-mounds, mostly Saxon, on the Kentish downs. He did as much as any one to prove, in his own words, that the interred 'were not slain in battle, as many have erroneously surmised, but that they were . . . neither more nor less than the peaceable inhabitants of the neighbouring village or villages'.

Previous to Faussett's time most students believed that barrows were erected over those slain in battles—a view which Faussett demonstrated to be mistaken. Faussett's work, the *Inventorium Sepulchrale*, was not published until nearly a century after his death.

The Rev. J. Douglas, author of *Nenia Britannica*, started a few years later than Faussett in exploring Saxon and other grave-mounds in different parts of Kent. The researches of Faussett and Douglas showed that most of the Kentish clusters of small circular grave-mounds could be dated between the fifth and eighth centuries A.D., and were Saxon. Douglas was somewhat eccentric, and is said to have kept a donkey which he painted with spots of different colours.

William Cunnington (1754–1810) took an interest first in geology and later in Wiltshire antiquities. He became sufficiently enthusiastic to start opening barrows, but lived at a time when excavation methods were poor. As time went on his methods improved, and eventually he became acquainted with Sir Richard Colt Hoare, inducing him to give up game-hunting in favour of barrow-hunting and barrow-digging. Hoare had ample means, leisure, and enthusiasm, and co-operated with Cunnington in a series of excavations of barrows, camps and other ancient sites in Wiltshire. The results of their researches were written up by Sir Richard Colt Hoare and published in two beautiful folio volumes entitled *Ancient Wiltshire*, the first of which Hoare dedicated to Cunnington. These two volumes, which describe excavations of a large number of barrows on Salisbury Plain, where they are most abundant and in greatest variety, must needs form the basis for all subsequent study of the subject. It must be admitted that the excavation methods of Cunnington and Hoare would not satisfy the meticulous archaeologists of the present day; but the fact remains that Cunnington and Hoare were more advanced than their predecessors, and if we are more advanced than Cunnington and Hoare it is because we stand on their shoulders and see farther. *Ancient Wiltshire*, as well as being a great antiquarian work, has literary merit and contains a large number of illustrations of considerable beauty.

The researches of Charles Warne in Dorset were not so

extensive as those of Cunnington and Hoare, but he succeeded in producing *The Celtic Tumuli of Dorset*, a work on barrows written in a style calculated to appeal to the general reader interested in things antiquarian. His work therefore makes more interesting reading than some archaeological books, but as an archaeological work it is definitely inferior to Hoare's *Ancient Wiltshire*. It is, however, a very useful work, and indispensable to the student of Dorset barrows.

Contemporary with Warne were the two Batemans (father and son), Carrington and Ruddock, who opened barrows in Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Yorkshire between 1820 and 1858. The results were published by Thomas Bateman in *Vestiges of the Antiquities of Derbyshire and Ten Years' Diggings*. The latter work is mainly a record of excavation of barrows in the three counties mentioned, but it includes valuable appendices dealing with aspects of barrow-study: e.g., a list of skulls, skeletons and separate bones from the mounds, a study of the pottery found in the barrows, and a list of barrows in the counties in question distinguished by local names.

Llewellyn Jewitt, who excavated some barrows in Yorkshire, was the first to attempt a general book on barrows, which he called *Grave-Mounds and their Contents*. His work is a simply-written and useful guide to the subject, but it is focused chiefly on examples in Yorkshire, Derbyshire and other northern counties. He does, however, discuss briefly the chambered tumuli of the Channel Islands, Ireland and various parts of England; the stone circles, the Roman barrows at Bartlow in Essex, and the remains from the Saxon grave-mounds in Kent and elsewhere. The greater portion of his work, however, deals not so much with grave-mounds as with their contents.

We now come to the great Dr. John Thurnam, Medical Superintendent of the Wiltshire County Asylum, Devizes, who spent nearly the whole of his spare time over many years in studying and excavating barrows, mostly in Wessex. He brought to the task a profound knowledge of human anatomy, especially craniology, which nearly all his predecessor barrow-students lacked. He was the joint author with Dr. J. B. Davis of *Crania Britannica*, a study of the skulls of

prehistoric man. If genius be an infinite capacity for taking pains, Thurnam was indeed a great genius, for his monumental papers on 'Ancient British Barrows' in Volumes 42 and 43 of the *Archæologia* are obviously the results of a colossal amount of industry and patience. In these two papers Thurnam collected together with great thoroughness nearly all the information, both published and in manuscript, of his predecessors and contemporaries, and supplementing this by his own extensive researches, welded all the material into a whole, and so laid the solid foundations of the science of barrow-study. He was probably by far the most eminent authority on prehistoric barrows and burial who has ever lived. One of his leading characteristics was a very sound and careful judgement, and extreme care for minute detail. No one has ever been a safer and more reliable authority on barrows than Thurnam. He wisely based his researches largely on the barrows of Wessex, where they exist in the greatest number and variety.

Meanwhile three other distinguished workers were pursuing their researches along different lines. Rev. W. C. Lukis was making careful studies and surveys of barrows and rude stone monuments of Brittany, the Channel Islands, Cornwall and elsewhere. A fine example of his work is his book on the *Rude Stone Monuments of Cornwall*, a beautifully produced quarto volume containing a series of delicately drawn plans and sections of the monuments, mostly sepulchral, of that county, where he had the assistance of W. C. Borlase the younger, who wrote a book on Cornish barrows entitled *Naenia Cornubiæ*. Canon William Greenwell was opening with considerable care a large number of barrows in Yorkshire and a few in several other counties as well, and in 1877 he published *British Barrows*, a large part of which work is concerned with Yorkshire. In 1890 he published an article in the *Archæologia*, Volume 52, on his researches subsequent to the publication of *British Barrows*. He died in 1918 at the ripe age of 98 and was active till the last. The work of Greenwell is of very great value, and his book on *British Barrows* is perhaps the best known book on the subject. Contemporary with Lukis and Greenwell was Lieut.-General Pitt-Rivers, who vastly improved methods of survey and

excavation. His excavation of Wor Barrow, a long barrow on Cranborne Chase in Dorset, is a model for all students. He opened several other barrows in different parts of the country, but he was mainly concerned with ancient earthworks of other kinds.

'Mortimer of Fimber' conducted excavations of 300 barrows in the Yorkshire Wolds, a few years after Greenwell had been working in a different part of the Wolds. Mortimer published his results in *Forty Years' Researches* . . . , a monumental work almost interleaved with very fine drawings by his daughter. So great was his fame as a prehistorian in Yorkshire that the flint axes and other implements found by the countryfolk came to be known as 'Mortimers.' He and Greenwell stand together as the two great authorities on the barrows of the Yorkshire Wolds.

About 1880 the Devonshire Association for the Advancement of Science founded a Barrow Committee, under the secretaryship of Mr. R. N. Worth. This committee published annual reports under his secretaryship until he died in about 1896, when his son, Mr. R. Hansford Worth continued the secretaryship until the present day. About fifty annual reports on Dartmoor barrows have been published and the work is quite unparalleled by that of any other area in England. The two Worths have certainly made a most intimate study not only of the barrows, cairns and stone cists, but also of the stone circles, stone rows, hut circles, and other antiquities and geology of Dartmoor. Of special note is the twenty-first Report of the Barrow Committee (1902), which consists of a summary of the previous twenty reports and is a masterly exposition of the subject of Dartmoor sepulchral monuments.

Perhaps the most outstanding work on barrows during the last thirty years has been done by Mr. O. G. S. Crawford. Mr. Crawford has been largely instrumental in making three important contributions to barrow-study—the use of air-photography in revealing unsuspected sites and getting a new view of those already known; the application of percussion, or ramming, in determining the presence or absence of obliterated ditches around mounds; and the importance of producing and studying distribution-maps of the barrows of

different types. He has written an important (though rather brief) article on Barrows, published in *Antiquity*, and a much more important book on *The Long Barrows of the Cotswolds*, and has done a great deal of work in connexion with the production of Ordnance Survey Professional Papers on the long barrows of the Cotswolds and of Kent and Sussex, and also the Ordnance Survey map of Neolithic Wessex.

Among other contemporaries the following are of some importance. Dr. G. B. Grundy has been studying the Saxon Land Charters of the different counties and thereby making accessible references in the charters to barrows; Dr. Allen Mawer and Professor F. M. Stenton have been studying the place-names of several counties and elucidating names relating to barrows and other earthworks. Mr. C. W. Phillips has been discovering and studying long barrows and other barrows in Lincolnshire. Mr. Heywood Sumner has done much valuable work in the New Forest and Cranborne Chase. The late A. Hadrian Allcroft wrote two erudite volumes on *The Circle and the Cross* in which he attempted to show that the barrow evolved into the meeting-place and open-air pulpit and was frequently the site of the early Saxon churches, which were sometimes built on or near barrows which were already sacred ground. Important recent work has been done on barrows in Yorkshire by Mr. and Mrs. Elgee, Derbyshire by Mr. J. P. Henthcote, and Somerset by E. K. Tratman and H. Taylor of the Bristol University Spelæological Society

LITERATURE :

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• PART I
ASPECTS OF BARROW-STUDY

CHAPTER I

TYPE AND CHRONOLOGY

A great obscurity herein, because no Medall or Emperour's Coin enclosed, which might denote the dates of their Interments.

SIR THOMAS BROWNE, *Urne-Buriall*, 1658, Chapter II.

It was pointed out in the Introduction that the earliest-known British barrows are of the long type, and these are considered to have been erected about 2000 B.C.

Long Barrows are mounds of earth or stone varying in length generally between 75 and 300 feet, and in width between 45 and 100 feet. Their height tends to be between 4 and 12 feet, and the mounds are most frequently placed with the higher and wider end at the east, north-east or south-east, but there are some exceptions to this generalization. Long barrows are of various kinds. In districts where large blocks of stone were easily obtainable, long barrows have internal stone structures and are therefore known as chambered ones.

The earliest chambered long barrows had at the eastern end an entrance, composed of two uprights and a capstone, leading to a passage underneath the mound. On the flanksides of this passage were little rooms or recesses, known as chambers, where the burials were placed. Sometimes, as at Coldrum in Kent, the entrance led direct to a burial-chamber without any intervening passage. Long barrows containing an entrance leading to one or more burial-chambers with or without a connecting passage are known as 'true passage-grave' examples. Perhaps the finest example in England is that at Stoury Littleton, in Somerset. Another good one is Hetty Pegler's Tump on the Cotswolds near Uley. The passage and chambers of both these barrows are still accessible.

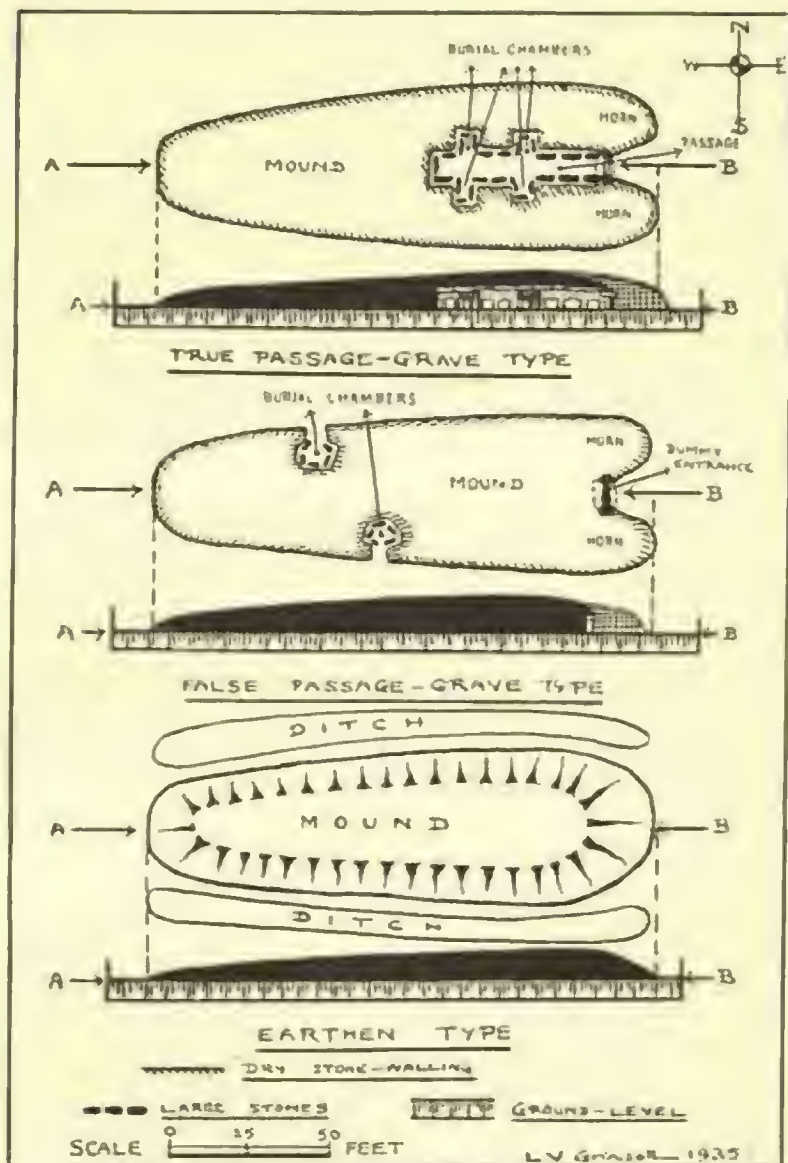
It was found that barrows of this kind could be easily entered, the burials disturbed and the grave-goods taken. In order to prevent this, a new type of long barrow was evolved consisting of a long mound with a dummy entrance, there being no passage or chambers leading from it. The burials were placed in chambers leading from the long sides of the mound. This is known as the 'false passage-grave' type. A fine example, now restored, is Belas Knap near Winchcombe on the Cotswolds.

A still more theft-proof barrow was that which had a dummy entrance and had the burials placed in closed-in cists completely hidden in the mound. Examples of this kind are very rare. A typical one is at Littleton Drew in Wiltshire, where the cists, four in number, are placed very near the southern long side of the mound. This type is probably later than the false passage-grave type, from which it may have been evolved.

In districts where stone was not available, as in South Wiltshire, Dorset and Sussex, the long barrows were composed of earth and chalk, and probably sometimes of wood as well. At the present day the mounds appear to be of earth and chalk; but there is reason to believe that at least some of them originally possessed entrances, passages, burial-chambers or cists of wood on a parallel with those made of stone in the other long barrows.

Apart from a few exceptional cremation-burials in some oval mounds in Yorkshire, Wiltshire and elsewhere, the burials (primary) in long barrows are nearly always by inhumation of the skeleton, which was frequently placed in a doubled-up position, and occasionally had a leaf-shaped arrow-head or two, or a round-bottomed pottery vessel buried with him. Other burial customs in long and round barrows will be described in the next chapter. A fine group of earthen long barrows is near Tilshead, (a few miles north of Stonehenge) and there is another good group on the chalk downs of north-east Dorset between Tollard Royal and Woodyates.

Round Barrows.—About 1900 B.C., a broad-headed race immigrated into this country from the Continent, probably from the Rhine district. These people made hand-made pottery vessels, many of which are gracefully proportioned



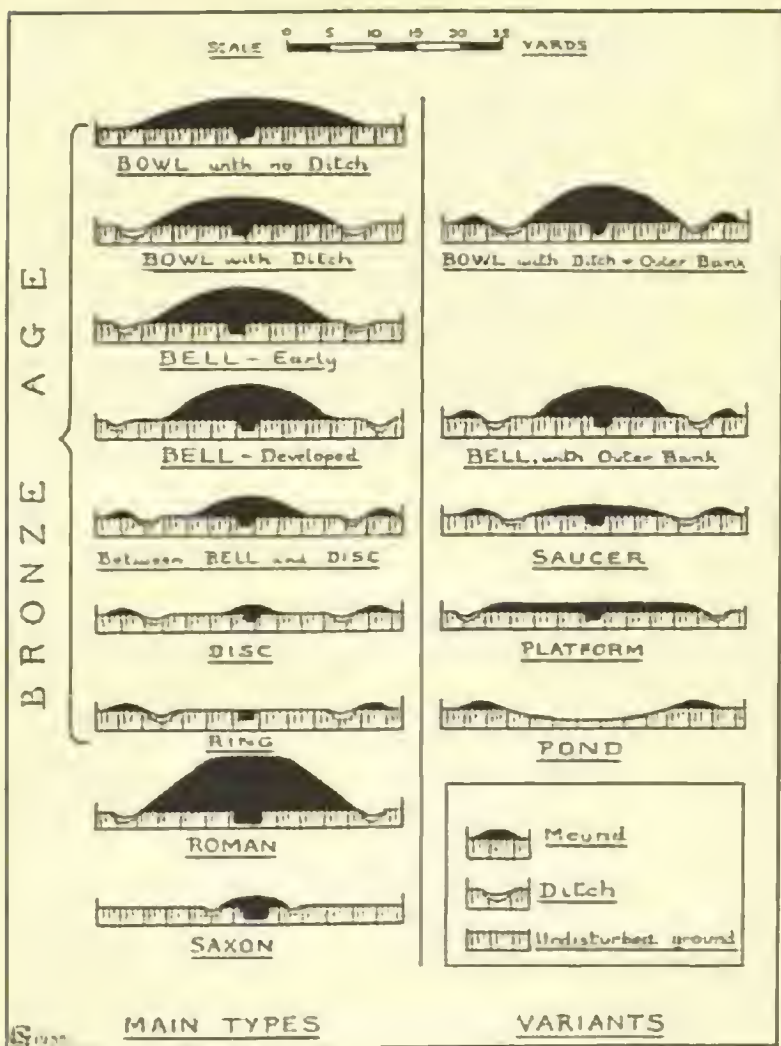
1.—THE CHIEF TYPES OF LONG BARROW

and neatly ornamented. These vessels are known as beakers, and the people who made them are called the Beaker Folk. About the same time as the Beaker Folk arrived in this country, the making of bronze implements was introduced, perhaps by another tribe.

It was the round-headed Beaker Folk who introduced the round barrow into this country, in the same way as a long-headed race introduced the long barrow. The great Dr. John Thurnam expressed this broad truth in the phrase, 'Long barrows—long skulls; round barrows—round skulls.' When Thurnam made this broad generalization he was probably fully aware that it was no more than a statement of a tendency. Eighty per cent. of the people who made the long barrows were probably long-headed, but there were a few broad heads among them.

There is reason to believe that when the Beaker Folk arrived in the southern counties some of them intermarried with the long barrow people already in occupation. This explains the occasional appearance of skulls of long barrow type in round barrows, and vice versa. Also it is likely that a minority of the Beaker Folk had long heads.

Bowl-Barrows.—The earliest round barrows were the bowl-barrows, which date from about 1900 B.C., but continued to be built and used until about A.D. 650. As their name indicates, bowl-barrows are shaped like a bowl inverted. Mrs. Cunnington, the eminent Wiltshire archaeologist, has well said that 'as the shape of bowls varies, so does that of the bowl-shaped barrow'. Some are steep and conical, others are low and almost flat. Some are only about 5 yards in diameter and a few inches high, while others are 50, or even 60, yards across and as much as 20 or 25 feet high. The typical bowl-barrow resembles nothing more than the third of an orange, placed with the convex side upwards, the dimple at the top of the orange corresponding to the slight shallow depression so often seen on the tops of barrows. This little dip is generally where the barrow has been opened; but in undisturbed barrows (which are unusual) the dip may have been caused by an internal burial-chest collapsing and the superincumbent earth falling in. Some barrows were originally constructed with a slight central depression, caused



2.—THE CHIEF TYPES OF ROUND BARROW


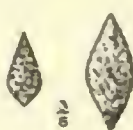

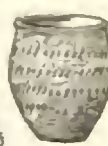

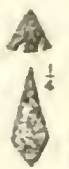










TYPE AND CHRONOLOGY CHART

Period	Type of Barrow	Method of Burial
LATE STONE AGE (NEOLITHIC)	LONG NARROWS { (i) True Passage-Grave (ii) False Passage-Grave. (iii) Earthen	Generally by crouched skeleton. Sometimes by dismembered bones
EARLY BRONZE AGE	Bowl-barrows Bell-barrows.	Crouched skeleton, sometimes with Beaker. Early type—crouched skeleton. Late type—Cremation.
MIDDLE BRONZE AGE	Bowl-barrows Bell-barrows Disc-barrows (?) Saucer-barrows (?) Ring-barrows (?) Poul-barrows	Cremation, simple or in shouldered urns. 'Incense cups' sometimes associated.
LATE BRONZE AGE	Bowl-barrows (?) Platform-barrows	Cremations in barrel, bucket, and Deverel-Rimbury Urns.
EARLY IRON AGE	Bowl-barrows Grave-mound clusters (?) Platform-barrows	Skeletons, generally doubled-up, but sometimes extended. Chariot-burials.
ROMANO- BRITISH	Steep and conical bowl-barrows. (?) Oval barrows Steep bowl-barrows with flattish tops	Cremations in urns, frequently enclosed in sarcophagus of wood or tile.
SAXON	Large conical bowl-barrows (occasionally) Normally.—Grave-mound clusters.	Generally by fully extended skeleton, accompanied frequently by an iron knife and sometimes by other grave-goods.

through the material of the barrow being placed on in layers slightly higher at the ends than in the middle.

About 90 per cent. of the known barrows are of the bowl shape. Some of the earliest examples are thought to have had no surrounding ditches, but this point has not been proved conclusively. Many bowl-barrows have visible ditches round their base at the present time, and most of them were ditched originally, but the ditch has frequently been ploughed over and so obliterated. Sometimes barrow-ditches have been overspread by the spreading of earth from the mound. Ditches around barrows are sometimes interrupted at one or two places, and ditches with one interruption or causeway are commoner than those with two or more interruptions. The ditches vary in width and depth, sometimes according to the size of the mound they enclose. A barrow about 20 yards in diameter and 5 feet high normally has a ditch about 4 yards wide and 1 foot deep externally. If the ditch were cleared out it would probably be about 4 or 5 feet deep, the silting being 3 or 4 feet thick. The earth or other material thrown out of the ditch was generally placed on the mound, which was, however, frequently composed of additional soil from elsewhere (see Chapter VIII, Section I). Occasionally a bank of earth is present outside the ditch of bowl-barrows.

Among the earliest English round barrows, in culture if not in time, must be ranked some earthen examples on the Yorkshire Wolds and some chambered ones in the Peak district. Duggleby Howe on the Yorkshire Wolds contained skeletons of Neolithic type and a round-bottomed pottery vessel likewise of Neolithic type. This barrow, and perhaps Willy Howe and one at the foot of Garrowby Hill on the Wolds, probably represent a fusion of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age cultures. The fine chambered round barrows of the Peak district are structurally similar to the 'false passage-grave' long barrows; the Five Wells tumulus and an example at Harborough Rocks both yielded leaf-shaped arrow-heads and multiple burials similar to those found in long barrows. The Five Wells tumulus also yielded some Neolithic pottery. It seems clear therefore that these chambered round barrows show strong Neolithic influence, if they are not actually of Neolithic date. Perhaps, like Duggleby

 $\frac{1}{5}$	NEOLITHIC			 $\frac{1}{6}$
ROUND-BASED VESSEL		FLINT ARROW-HEADS		
 $\frac{1}{10}$	 $\frac{1}{10}$	 $\frac{1}{10}$	 $\frac{1}{4}$	 $\frac{1}{10}$ JET NECKLACE  $\frac{1}{5}$ WHETSTONE
BEAKERS		FOOD VESSEL	FLINT ARROW-HEADS	BRONZE KNIFE-DAGGER
EARLY BRONZE AGE				
 $\frac{1}{13}$	 $\frac{1}{10}$	 $\frac{1}{13}$	 $\frac{1}{13}$	 $\frac{1}{13}$
CINERARY URN	INCENSE CUP	CINERARY URNS		
MIDDLE BRONZE AGE		LATE BRONZE AGE		
 $\frac{1}{7}$	 $\frac{1}{10}$	 $\frac{1}{7}$	 $\frac{1}{7}$ SHIELD-BOSS  $\frac{1}{7}$ IRON KNIVES	
POTTERY VESSEL AND BONE OF PIG		GLASS URN		GLASS VESSEL
EARLY IRON AGE	ROMAN	SAXON		

3.—GRAVE-GOODS FROM BARROWS

Howe, these examples may be best explained on the hypothesis of a fusion between Neolithic and Early Bronze Age elements.

The earliest true Bronze Age bowl-barrows contained the primary contracted burial of a skeleton frequently accompanied by a beaker.

Bell-Barrows.—Attention has just been drawn to the tendency for earth composing the mound of a barrow to overspread into the surrounding ditch. It was probably with the object of preventing this overspreading that some harrows were built with a narrow ledge between the mound and the ditch. This ledge or platform was sufficiently wide to take the soil due to the spreading of the mound. These harrows with ledges or platforms, (or berms as they are technically called) are known as bell-barrows, because in shape they are supposed to resemble an old-fashioned bell. The earliest bowl-barrows are about 1900 B.C., and it seems most likely that the earliest bell-barrows were made about 1700 B.C. Some of them contain burials of contracted skeletons with beakers, which represent the earliest form of burial in round barrows (except those of Neolithic type just described in Derbyshire and Yorkshire).

The later and more developed bell-barrows (1650-1300 B.C.) have a wider platform or berm between the mound and the ditch, and bell-barrows of this kind are frequently of great size, beautifully and symmetrically formed, and very impressive. They are seen at their best on Salisbury Plain, especially on the downs near Stonehenge, and one of the finest examples is on Overton Hill near Avebury. There are also some fine ones near Everleigh. Bell-barrows of this developed kind almost invariably contain primary burials by cremation, which are later than those by inhumation of the contracted skeleton. Those near Stonehenge, especially on Normanton and other downs south of that monument, have yielded a rich array of grave-goods including gold ornaments, amber beads and trinkets, as well as the usual bronze knife-laggers which are common in barrows of other districts.

In constructing bell-barrows, the ditch was generally dug last of all and the chalk therefrom placed on the mound to form a crust and preserve its original form.

Barrows transitional between Bell and Disc Types.—Most

of the bell-barrows are on the chalk downs, where it was easy to obtain chalk rubble from the ditches to place on the surface of the mound. When the bell-barrow idea was carried out in the heath-districts of the New Forest and elsewhere, the barrow-type seems to have undergone adaptation to the different soil-conditions. It was no use placing earth from the surrounding ditch on to the mound to form a hard crust, because the earth was of a loose sandy nature. It appears therefore to have been placed *outside* the ditch to form an outer bank. As there was not so much earth on the mound, the latter was smaller. Thus the Heathland bell-barrow tended to have a smaller mound, wider berm or platform, and a bank outside the ditch. Three good examples are on Setley Plain, and two more are on Beaulieu Heath east of the Hill Top. Another is in Deerleap Wood near Wotton, Surrey. The type exists occasionally on the chalk, as for example near Bishops Cannings, and on Huish Hill, Wilts. A good one exists in a wood on Aston Upthorpe Downs in Berkshire. Barrows of this type are probably as a class slightly later in date than bell-barrows, and slightly earlier than those of disc type.

Disc-Barrows.—A disc-barrow consists of a small central mound placed on a platform of considerable area, which is bounded by a ditch with an outer bank. The diameter of disc-barrows, from bank to bank, is usually between 40 and 60 yards.

It is possible that the disc-barrow developed from the New Forest type of bell-barrow just described, which is really intermediate between the bell- and the disc-barrow. A disc-barrow is really a bell-barrow with a small central mound and a bank outside the ditch. It is just as if the earth or chalk from the ditch, instead of increasing the size of the mound, were placed outside the ditch to form a bank; and this in fact is exactly what has been done. But the true developed disc-barrow has a very small mound (or sometimes two or three mounds) on the platform, which is surrounded by a ditch and bank which are sometimes of considerable size.

Many authorities, including Colt Hoare and Thurnam, have regarded disc-barrows as the graves of women, on the evidence of beads and other female ornaments found in the

excavations. One authority, the anonymous author of a play entitled *The Barrow Diggers* (1839), went as far as to call the disc-barrow the 'Female Barrow'.

But as disc-barrows are known to be slightly later than bell-barrows, and as some bell-barrows were the graves of women, it seems more likely that the disc-barrow is merely a late stage in the evolution of the barrow.

The best disc-barrows, which are of great beauty and symmetry, are on the downs near Stonehenge, especially between Winterbourne Stoke and Normanton Down south of that monument. The Normanton disc-barrows are particularly fine. Other good examples exist on Silk Hill (see air-photograph, Part II, Chap. VI), the downs north of Everleigh, among the Snail Down group, and elsewhere. Twin overlapping disc-barrows—very fine ones—are near Scot's Poor Inn, (south of Grafton) and on Setley Plain south of Brockenhurst in the New Forest.

All the disc-barrows for which authenticated excavation records are available yielded primary burials by cremation. Therefore it is difficult if not impossible to tell the sex of those buried by an examination of the skeletal remains.

Most of the disc-barrows were probably made between 1600 B.C. and 1100 B.C.¹

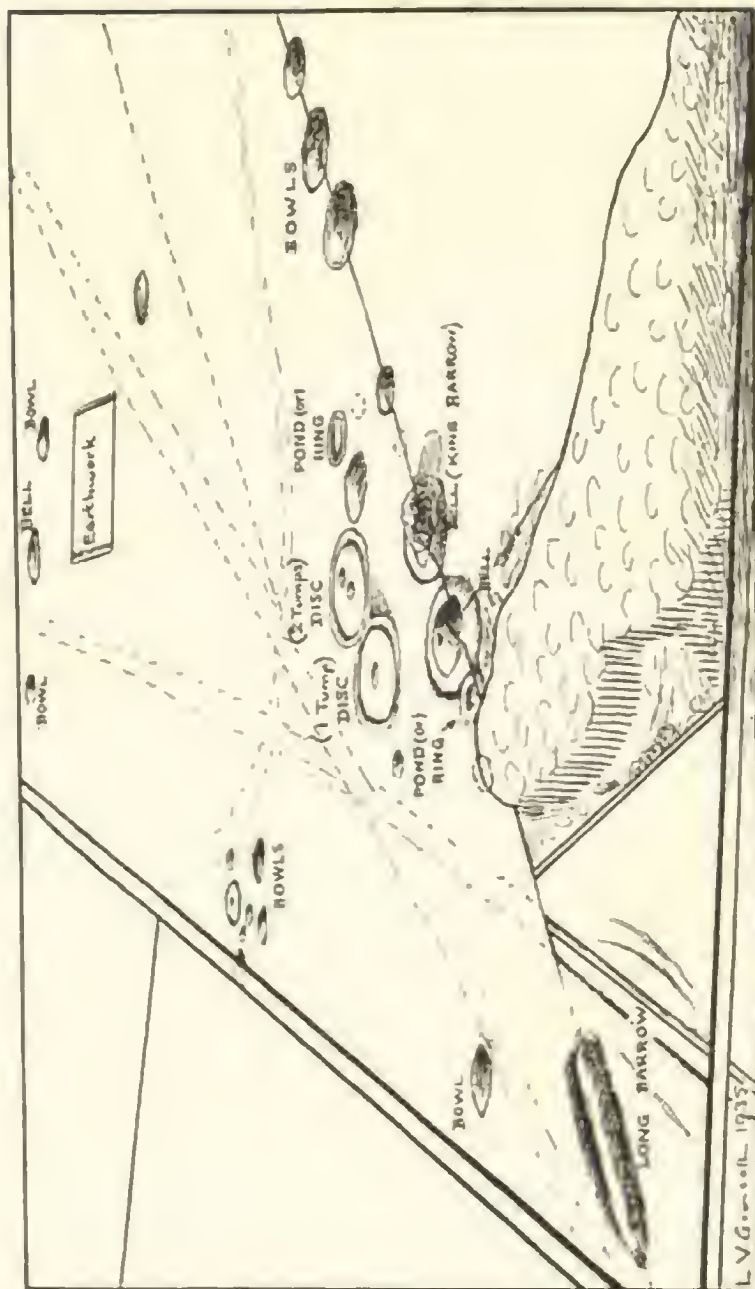
Ring-Mounds.—It is but a step from the disc-barrow with a very small central mound to the ring-barrow with no central mound at all. The ring-barrow consists of a circular platform, generally about the same size as that of disc-barrows, surrounded by a ditch and bank. It is merely a disc-barrow without the central mound; but the burial was still placed in a pit or rist under the centre of the platform.

Proved barrows of this type are uncommon, but ringworks which *may* have been barrows are more frequent.

A. Hadrian Allcroft wrote:

Residence, 'camp', 'pastoral enclosure', temple, place of debate or of judicature—a ringwork may have been built to be any one of these, and possibly to be many other things as well, and for every

¹ The writer wishes to make it clear that the explanation just given of the development of round barrows through the bowl, bell, and disc stages is only an expression of his own personal opinion. It is not yet part of orthodox archaeology.



1.-KEY TO AIR-PHOTOGRAPH OF WINTERHOUSE CROSS-ROADS CHERT

Showing the most important types of Harrow

L.V.G. 10.10.1935



THE WESTFOURNE CROSS-ROADS GROUP, WILTSHIRE, FROM THE AIR

Showing the main types of burrow



one of these purposes it may have received its consecration-deposit. . . . But to prove it an intentional barrow there is needed something much more prominent, much more central perhaps, certainly much more proportionate, than the thing that served for a consecration-burial. (*The Circle and the Cross*, vol. I, pp. 37-8.)

Thus every ringwork is by no means a barrow. In recent years there has been a tendency to regard certain earth circles as corresponding to stone and timber circles. They would then be considered as places of worship such as Stonehenge and Woodhenge. The Knowlton circles near Cranborne in Dorset are among the most interesting examples, and a church has long stood inside one of them. Other good examples are at Priddy on the Mendips of Somerset.

Saucer-Barrows.—Closely allied to the disc-barrow and the ring-mound, yet differing slightly from both, is the so-called saucer-barrow, which may be regarded either as a disc-barrow with the central mound spread over the whole platform, or else as a ring-barrow with a slightly raised central platform. Two examples, one large and one small, are shown in the air-photograph of the Lambourn Seven Barrows (Plate XVII). Colt Hoare regarded the type as a variety of disc-barrow, and as he called disc-barrows 'Druid' barrows, so he called saucer-barrows 'Druid No. 2' barrows. Some saucer-barrows are as large as disc-barrows, while others are very much smaller. In date they are probably roughly contemporary with disc-barrows.

Pond-Barrows (so-called) are like inverted bowl-barrows. They consist of a basin-shaped circular cavity, surrounded by a lip or bank of earth. The earth from the circular cavity has been used to make up the bank. Excavation of mounds of this type has revealed, as Lord Avebury observed, 'many signs of life, but few of death'. It is therefore doubtful whether they are barrows or habitation circles. They are rare, but generally occur associated with barrows. Several of them used to exist among the Wilsford group of barrows, south of Stonehenge, but these have long been under plough and are now visible only as circular depressions. A very fine example is on North Down, south-west of Avebury. An example resembling a pond-barrow but smaller and shallower than usual is in the air-photograph of the Winter-

bourne Cross-Roads group (Plate II) where it overlaps (and is therefore later than) a bell-barrow. Several so-called pond-barrows are to be seen near the Ridgeway between Dorchester and Weymouth, but they have mostly been ploughed over.

Platform-Barrows are round barrows with a flat top. They are sometimes known as table-barrows, but platform-barrow seems the better term.

There are two main types of platform-barrow—the one with a large mound about 20 yards or more in diameter and between 1½ and 4 feet high; and the one with a smaller mound between 8 and 20 yards in diameter and raised only a few inches above the surrounding soil. In the centre of examples of the latter type there is nearly always a slight dimple or shallow depression.

Large Platform-Barrows are apt to get confused with bowl-barrows which have had their tops removed or truncated; and there is little doubt that some mounds which have been claimed as platform-barrows are really truncated bowl-barrows.

A number of large barrows approaching platform type have been claimed and studied in the New Forest by H. Kidner. Pudding Barrow is a good example. The tops of the New Forest platform-barrows are not perfectly flat, but they are decidedly flattish. Some of them are covered with furze, and not easy to survey carefully. The New Forest barrows of this type are more like very broad flattened bowl-barrows than true platform-barrows of the type occasionally found on the South Downs and elsewhere. There is no doubt that the New Forest was inhabited rather thickly at the end of the Bronze Age; this is made clear by the large number of bucket- and barrel-shaped urns of this period found there. They belong to the period of transition from Bronze Age to Early Iron Age. It is possible that many of the New Forest barrows, including some of the flattish examples, may belong to this period. A few have already been proved to belong to it.

At the same time the available evidence is certainly not sufficient to include all platform-barrows in this period of transition; in fact the type is not a well-marked one and



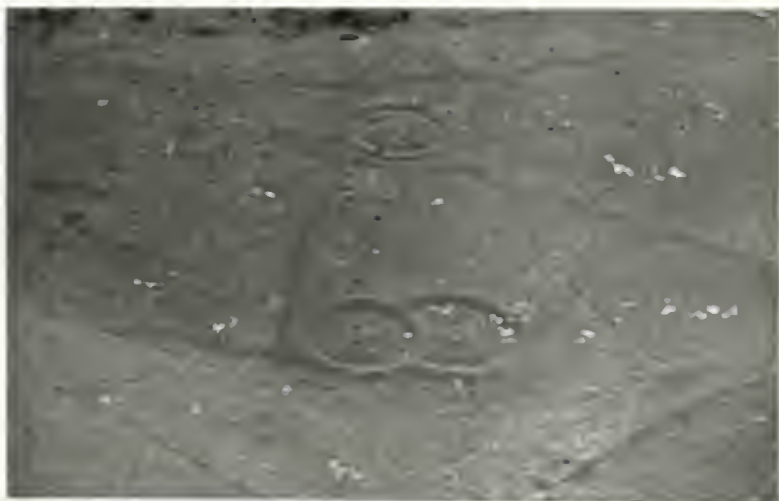
THE FOUR BARROWS, ALDBOURNE, WILTS,
FROM THE AIR



THE SAME BARROWS FROM THE GROUND
The group contains three bell-burrows and one bowl-burrow







THREE DISC-BARROWS, INCLUDING OVERLAPPING EXAMPLES,
SOUTH OF GRAFTON, WILTS



FIVE BARROWS SOUTH OF MAIDEN CASTLE, DORSET
Four of these barrows appear to be enclosed by the same ditch

shades into bowl-barrows. Even many of the best platform-barrows are not above suspicion of having been bowl-barrows truncated.

In Sussex there is a good example on Cocking Down near Midhurst, and a still better one on Race Hill just west of Lewes. Also there are two fine ones on Glynde Hill north-east of Caburn.

Small Low Platform-Barrows, although so-called, may not be barrows at all. In Sussex they generally exist in groups of two or three, frequently near Early Iron Age camps, as at Chanetonbury, Caburn, and Ranscombe. Pitt-Rivers opened a few of them, and finding no evidence of burial, formed the opinion that they might have been the sites of outposts to the hill-forts. At Ranscombe there are two of them *inside* the camp.

An Early Iron Age date for some mounds of this type seems likely, even if they are not sepulchral. They bear a close resemblance to some very low bowl-barrows in the Marleycombe and Woodminton areas of South Wilts opened by Dr. R. C. C. Clay, which yielded evidence of an Early Iron Age date.

Between Horndean and Petersfield, just east of the Portsmouth road and near the turning to Chalton, are two enormous barrows of platform-type, situated a mile away from one another, consisting of a platform about 60 yards in diameter and raised scarcely at all above the surrounding ground. They are surrounded by very wide and shallow ditches. In type they are quite unlike platform-barrows of either type described above.

Pitt-Rivers opened a barrow of platform-type in N.E. Dorset (his 'Handley Down No. 24') and found that although there appeared to have been no burial in the barrow, the ground surrounding it contained a large number of Early Iron Age urns of bucket and barrel forms. Here again it looks as if the circular mound might have been built at the end of the Bronze Age or beginning of the Iron Age.

Early Iron Age grave-mound clusters.—'The Danes' Graves' near Driffield, and groups of grave-mounds near Arras and Hessleskew, near Market Weighton, Yorkshire, have been shown to belong to the Early Iron Age. These barrows,

being small and clustered closely together in considerable numbers, are quite different in appearance from the larger barrows of the preceding Bronze Age, which seldom exist in groups of more than about 20, and which are not usually placed as closely together as the Early Iron Age grave-mounds. It is a convenience to distinguish these Early Iron Age groups (and the similar Saxon groups) by calling them 'grave-mound clusters', reserving the term *barrow* for other sepulchral mounds. Some of the Yorkshire Early Iron Age grave-mound clusters have contained burials accompanied by iron chariots. Chariot-burials are fairly frequent in the Marne area in France, from which district the Yorkshire ones may have been derived. They are of La Tène period (the later phase of the Early Iron Age).

Roman Barrows.—Under this heading it is convenient to include all barrows made under Roman influence, whether containing burials of Britonized Romans or Romanized Britons, or whether made under Romano-Belgie or other hybrid influence.

Roman barrows, in this wide sense of the term, tend to be large and steep. Sometimes they are conical, and sometimes they have a flattened top, but are higher and steeper than platform-barrows. One or two oval barrows (e.g., one at Hyde near Chulford, Glos.) have been shown by excavation to be Roman, and I have a suspicion of a Roman date for several other steep oval barrows.¹

Most of the Roman barrows are in East Anglia. The Six Hills south of Stevenage are among the best known and most accessible. Their Roman date has not been proved though it is strongly probable. The Bartlow Hills on the northern boundary of Essex are also famous, and were opened in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, 'as Camden delivereth'. Most Roman barrows yield burials by cremation in a glass urn, which is sometimes placed with other articles in a sarcophagus of stone, tile or wood.

Saxon Barrows.—Barrows of the Saxon period are of two kinds—large steep and conical ones, in which chiefs were buried, as at Taplow in Buckinghamshire; and very small

¹ The oval shape of the Hyde barrow may, however, be due to ploughing.



A ROMAN BARROW, THE HYDE TUMULUS, CHALFORD,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE



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SAXON GRAVE-MOUND CLUSTER ON DEHINGSTONE DOWNS,
KENT

low grave-mounds clustered thickly together, in which the upper classes and the common people were buried.

The Taplow barrow may be briefly described. It was the low (Saxon *hlæw* = barrow) in which a Saxon named Tæppa was buried. The mound stands in the private grounds of Taplow Court, and was about 27 yards in diameter and 15 feet high. Its present height seems to be about 12 feet. The primary burial was of a male skeleton in a rectangular grave with the head at the eastern end. Among the grave-goods, which are in the British Museum, were a sword, two spears, a gold buckle set with garnets and lapis-lazuli, two shield-bosses, two buckets, and some glass drinking horns. Seldom has such an elaborate set of grave-goods been found in an English barrow.

Most of the grave-mound clusters are (or were) in Kent, but many have been destroyed. There are also a few in Sussex and Surrey, and the Isle of Wight. Clusters still existing in fairly good preservation are in Greenwich Park, and on Brench Downs south of Derrington in Kent. The latter are on land up for sale as building property (1934); some of the mounds have already been built upon, and the whole group will probably be destroyed within a year or so unless immediate steps are taken to arrest the destruction. In Sussex there are a number of grave-mound clusters between Brighton and Lewes. They have not been properly excavated and hence it is not certain whether they are Early Iron Age or Saxon. Rev. J. Douglas opened some of them and apparently left no adequate account of his work; but he was inclined to refer them to the Romano-British period, to which some of them may belong. Douglas opened a large number of Saxon grave-mound clusters in Kent, which he described in a book called *Nenia Britannica* (1798). Rev. Bryan Faussett also opened a large number of Kentish grave-mound clusters, described in the *Inventorium Sepulchrale* (1856), published nearly a century after the excavations were made. In the Isle of Wight are Saxon clusters on Bowcombe and Chessel Downs, between Freshwater and Newport. In Surrey is a cluster—not a very typical one—on Fairdean or Farthing Downs near Coulsdon.

Saxon barrows of both kinds nearly always contain burials

by fully-extended skeleton, but occasionally the skeleton is contracted. An iron knife frequently accompanies each burial. In the graves of females are often beautiful fibulae or disc-brooches.

Saxon barrow-burials by cremation are rare.

SECONDARY BURIALS

In the foregoing pages an effort has been made to connect the type of barrow with the method of primary (or original) burial adopted. That is to say, by method of burial has always been meant the method of the original burial for which the barrow was made.

Many barrows of all periods contain, in addition to the original or primary burial, a number of later or secondary ones, which may belong to any periods subsequent to that of the primary interment. Some secondary burials may be only a few minutes later than the primary one; others are some centuries, or even thousands of years, later. A long barrow of the New Stone Age may contain secondary burials belonging to all periods from the Bronze Age to Saxon or even later times. Several long barrows have yielded Early Bronze Age secondary burials of contracted skeletons with beakers. Many round barrows of the Bronze Age have secondary interments of Saxon date. A Bronze Age barrow among the Five Knolls, on Dunstable Downs, yielded more than ninety Saxon secondary burials of fully extended skeletons.

The modern cemetery may be regarded as having had one primary burial (of the first person buried) to which have been added a great number of secondary burials. But in the ancient barrow the primary burial is the most important, whereas in the modern cemetery the secondary burials claim prominence, the primary burial having sometimes been that of a tramp, or a still-born child. In the cemetery the primary burial is frequently in the nature of a consecration-deposit.

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THE Saxon HARROW AT TAPLOW, HUCKS



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CHAPTER II

BURIAL CUSTOMS, PAST AND PRESENT

That they accustomed to burn or bury with them things wherein they excelled, delighted, or which were dear unto them, either as farewells unto all Pleasure, or vain apprehension that they might use them in the other world, is testified by all Antiquity.

SIR THOMAS BROWNE, *Urne-Buriall*, 1658, chapter 1

THE contemplation of his dead brethren must have given prehistoric man cause to reflect on the mysteries of life, death, and the hereafter. Whether from fear of the ghost of his deceased relatives or friends, from a desire to perpetuate their memory, or from a wish to provide for them a 'house for the dead', he did at any rate erect a monument of earth or stone over his dead kinsfolk.

Many of the British long barrows seem to have been built as houses for the dead. The burials in them were frequently skeletons placed in a crouching position—the position of the infant in the pre-natal stage. Some have thought that early man, in placing his dead in this attitude, had in mind the idea of a re-birth into another world; one writer has even gone so far as to stress the resemblance of the burial-chamber to the womb, the passage to the vagina, and the mound to the state of pregnancy. There are, however, many objections to this interesting theory. Many authorities think that such an idea is based on facts beyond the medical knowledge of early man. It is difficult to understand how the archaeologist can ever find out *why* prehistoric man buried his dead in this way. It has been argued that the contracted position is the natural position of the body in sleep; it has also been argued with much plausibility that in certain areas the reason for burial in the contracted position may have been to prevent the ghost of deceased from returning to disturb the living. In this connexion it may be emphasised that prehistoric burial

customs were probably prompted as much by fear of the dead as by affection for him. But it may be a mistake to regard the fear of the dead as the *dominant* motive underlying burial customs in prehistoric Britain; for if it were, early man would never have travelled on the ridgeways that are so frequently studded with barrows, for fear of encountering the ghosts of his ancestors. The prehistoric age of many of these ridgeways is, however, open to question, though supported by much circumstantial evidence.

There is little doubt that in prehistoric times there was a widely held belief in the existence of a life beyond the grave. This belief would explain the burial of man in the New Stone and Early Bronze Ages in the contracted position; it would explain the deposit of grave-goods with the dead—flint arrow-heads to hunt with, food to eat, and so on. It would explain the placing of letters (a Gaulish custom) on the funeral pyre in the hope that they would be read by deceased.

On the other hand, some have thought that the grave-goods were not placed in the barrow with any idea of their use in the future life; but that they were placed there as offerings or mementos. In this connexion we may recall the story of the English officer carrying flowers, who went to the cemetery with his Indian friend who was carrying food. The English officer scoffed at the Indian for carrying food to place on the grave of his deceased relative, as if the latter could eat the food. But the Indian reminded the Englishman that *his* dead relative could not smell the flowers he was to place on the grave. The fact is that at the present day both customs are practised with the idea of the goods being offerings. At the same time each custom may be a survival from a time when an idea of a more concrete future life was held, and when simple primitive folk may have had a vain hope that the dead could get satisfaction from food and flowers offered to them. It is said that to this day, in Egypt, a widow may be seen talking animatedly through a hole to her dead husband in his tomb.

This brief introduction may well be followed by an outline of the burial customs from the Stone Age to the Saxon period, with notes where suitable on the present-day survivals of the early burial customs.

In the Old Stone Age the dead were sometimes buried with grave-goods, suggesting that a belief in a future life existed even at this dawn-period.

In the New Stone Age, as has already been said, people were often buried in the contracted position, and occasionally accompanied by leaf-shaped arrow-heads and pottery vessels, which may have contained food or drink. Frequently the custom was to expose deceased in an ossuary in the open air for several weeks or months before burial, and then to place a selection of his bones in the long barrow erected in his honour. The long barrow has been described as a 'house for the dead', in which he would live a concrete existence, needing food and implements as required during lifetime. The chambered long barrow containing internal stone structures bears a special resemblance to one's idea of a house for the dead.

In the Early Bronze Age, (Beaker period), burial was nearly always by contracted skeleton, generally accompanied by a beaker of hand-made pottery, beautifully ornamented in horizontal bands or zones. Sometimes shells of snails and other molluscs were placed before the mouth of deceased, evidently as food. Many barrows with primary burials of a contracted skeleton have secondary interments of cremations. Sometimes these are later in date than the primary burial; but frequently they are of the same period and represent human beings or animals sacrificed on the death of their chief. It must be emphasized that in both the Stone and Early Bronze Ages the idea of a future life was that of a concrete one, bearing some resemblance to life as we know it—that is, if we interpret the material from the graves correctly.

The Middle and Late Bronze Ages.—In these phases the custom of skeleton-burial declined and was supplanted by that of cremation. According to Pliny, the custom of cremation originated from the fear of having the bones of the skeleton disturbed. The skeleton was sometimes dug up and put to economic uses. In the words of Sir Thomas Browne, 'to be knav'd out of our graves, to have our souls made drinking-bowls, and our bones turned into Pipes, to delight and sport our Enemies, are Tragicall abominations, escaped in burning Burials'.

Along with the custom of cremation came an entirely new philosophy of the future life. The idea of a concrete future life gave place to that of a spiritual one, into which nobody or nothing could enter unless it were burnt. Man himself was cremated; his implements, food, and clothes were burnt along with him. We read, in Herodotus, of a poor shivering dead woman who appeared to her husband and complained that she was very cold in the land of spirits, because her clothes had not been burnt and she could not wear them. The idea was that no object could be of service to a cremated human being unless it was burnt and its spirit thus freed to enable it to enter the world of spirits. We have already referred to the Gaulish custom of throwing letters on the funeral pyre, in the hope that when burnt they could be read by deceased.

This, at least, is a philosophy of the future life that some archaeologists have read into the practice of cremation and its attendant customs in prehistoric times. It would be interesting to know how far these archaeologists are right in their interpretation of the facts. To find out what beliefs were held by primitive man is one of the most difficult problems in archaeology.

Although cremation in prehistoric England is generally considered to be later than inhumation, it must be remembered that different methods of burial may not necessarily indicate difference in date. As Windle pointed out, mere personal caprice may sometimes have decided the method of burial in prehistoric times as is done to-day. In certain circumstances the method of burial may be governed by the social standing of deceased, and in yet other cases cremation may have been chosen wherever there was a good supply of wood for the purpose, burial in other regions being by inhumation of the skeleton. Among some primitive tribes men and women are cremated, but children are buried. In parts of Victoria, Australia, married people are cremated and single ones buried.

The earliest cremations may not have been enclosed in any receptacle. The later ones were enclosed in a 'sad sepulchral pitcher' as described by Browne. Some of the German urns are provided with a 'ghost-hole', so-called

from a belief that the hole was to enable the ghost of deceased to escape.

Many, perhaps most, of the English Middle Bronze Age cinerary urns were inverted over their deposits of burnt bones. This inversion may have been done in order to prevent the earth from getting to the bones, or it may have been done in order to prevent the ghost of deceased from escaping.

Some burials of the Early Bronze Age, both by inhumation and by cremation, have been enclosed in a coffin made from a tree-trunk of oak or elm. In the Scarborough Museum is a very fine example of one of these tree-trunk coffins from Gristhorpe cliffs, south of Scarborough. It is interesting to note that either oak or elm is almost invariably still used for coffin-making.

In the Early Iron Age, skeleton-burial returned. The burials were sometimes fully extended, but more frequently they were doubled up so much as to suggest that they were bound, perhaps to prevent their ghosts from walking. In a valuable paper on House-Burial, Mr. S. O. Addy gave (*Proc. Derbyshire Arch. Socy*, vol. 40, p. 32) several instances of precautions taken to prevent the ghost of deceased from walking. 'In several English churches bodies have been found in which the bones were filled with lead.' During the La Tène period (the later part of the Early Iron Age), deceased was occasionally buried with a chariot, perhaps intended to expedite his journey to the netherworld! He was sometimes provided with part of a pig in an earthenware jar, for his sustenance during the journey.

In Roman times it was usual for deceased to have a coin buried with him: this was the fee he had to pay to Charon for taking him by ferry across the River Styx to the next world. This custom of placing a coin with deceased, frequently in his mouth, has been practised quite recently in burials on the Yorkshire Moors and elsewhere (see Atkinson, *Forty Years in a Moorland Parish*, p. 215). In the Western Highlands it has been known for deceased to be provided with a hammer with which to knock for admission at the gate of the next world.

The Saxons did not value human life as highly as their

predecessors, and made little fuss of burial except of their chieftains. Most of the men were buried with iron knives, and most of the women with beautiful and sometimes costly disc-brooches. The Saxon chief Tæppa was buried in his hlaew or barrow at Taplow with a plentiful supply of glass drinking horns and a large bucket which may have contained the wine. If he arrived at the netherworld sober it was a wonder.

We have seen that every provision and comfort was given to early man to facilitate his journey to the next world. Precautions were no less thorough to prevent him from returning to this world to molest the living, if we are safe in interpreting the evidence of the barrows with the help of a study of the burial customs among some primitives living to-day. It is thought by some that the main object of burying the dead beneath an enormous mound of earth or stones was to keep the ghost well buried.

Barrows in Derbyshire, Yorkshire, and elsewhere, have yielded a number of headless burials, and it may be that the heads of the dead were removed in order to prevent the dead from disturbing the living. Traditions are not uncommon of headless ghosts having been seen walking about near barrows; these stories are of extraordinary significance when taken in conjunction with the fact that headless skeletons are occasionally found in barrows. Bateman wrote that headless skeletons are 'not very unusual' in barrows in Derbyshire (*Ten Years' Diggings*, p. 186).

In out-of-the-way parts to-day, people returning from a funeral pursue a zig-zag path in order to dodge the ghost of deceased, which is supposed to be able to travel only in a straight line. Hot coals and other articles are sometimes flung in the direction of the grave by the mourners moving away from it. A terrible clatter is made of drums and tin cans in order to frighten the ghost. In Yorkshire it was formerly the custom in some parts to whisper in the ear of deceased that he must not come again (Atkinson, *Forty Years* . . . p. 219).

Most barrows contain secondary burials in addition to the central and primary burial that occasioned the construction

of the mound. It is important to note that these secondary burials tend to occur on the south and south-west sides of the barrow. It is interesting to note that the south and south-west sides of churchyards are in many districts favoured for burial, and graves are frequently sparsely placed on the north side of the churchyard. The Old English belief was that the north side was fit only for burials of still-born babies, suicides, murderers, and the like. Burials on the south-west side are sometimes so crowded together that it is impossible to add an interment without disturbing the bones of earlier ones. It is significant that the most sacred part of Stonehenge, the Altar Stone, is at the south-west.

During the Bronze Age and in Saxon times the grave-goods associated with primary burials sometimes include necklaces and other ornaments of amber, jet, and shale. Hoare found no less than 33 burials with amber ornaments and 29 with those of jet or shale. Amber, jet, and shale have all in ancient and modern times been held to possess many virtues and properties, including the cure of deafness, rheumatism, and other ailments, the test of chastity, and power to ward off insanity, the devil, and witchcraft. By way of illustrating its properties it is sufficient to recall that the Shah of Persia is said to wear a hock of amber on his neck, to protect him against assassination. The amber found in the English barrows may have come from the Baltic or it may be native, perhaps from the coasts of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Space does not permit an account of certain other customs, such as that of having a feast after the funeral, which dates from at least as early as the Bronze Age, the alleged remains of funeral feasts occurring quite commonly in the material of the barrows. Many customs which may be of great antiquity are funeral orations, lamentations, mourning, and the wake or watching of the dead between the death and the funeral. The custom still practised of telling the bees of the death of their owner may likewise be very ancient, as bee-keeping goes back to prehistoric times. These customs are of such a nature as to leave little or no trace in the shape of archaeological evidence.

Let us conclude this chapter by referring to the custom of adding a stone to a cairn as a mark of respect for the person

buried therein. This custom, which is doubtless of great antiquity, is still practised in Scotland and elsewhere. A Welsh proverb of reproach for a worthless deceased, is : ' Not a person will carry a stone to throw upon his earnedd ' (Welsh for cairn or barrow).

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CHAPTER III

FOLK-LORE

. . . dark sayings from of old
Ranging and ringing through the minds of men,
And echo'd by old folks beside their fires
For comfort after their wage-work is done.

TENNYSON, *Coming of Arthur*.

IN this chapter it is proposed to collect together and analyse a selection of the beliefs about harrows held by the country-folk, and by a few of the townsfolk as well. The study of the folk-lore of ancient monuments is in its infancy, and it is hoped that this chapter may provide a selection of raw material which the folk-lorist will find useful and perhaps eventually be able to interpret. The work of the writer has been to collect these items from a large number of sources, and a few of them have been obtained at first hand from the rustics. The items have been classified under the headings of giants, fairies, the Devil and Grim, mythical and historical personages, the Danes, battles, hidden treasure, site-sanctity, immovability of megalithic stones, calendar customs, and miscellaneous items. The task of tracing these beliefs back to their earlier forms, if not to their origins, can be properly undertaken only by those with a profound knowledge of folk-lore. The writer has offered tentative suggestions as to the origin of a few of the items, for which a reasonable explanation has occurred to him. In time to come, when many more items of folk-lore have been collected, it may be profitable to map the distribution of like items, and the study of these distributions may well yield interesting facts. The student of these distributions will, however, have to make allowance for the influence of the itinerant story-tellers of medieval times in spreading folk-lore items from one place to another. Meanwhile, the

following contribution is offered to one of the most fascinating byways in archaeology. Let us now consider the groups of like items, one by one.

1. GIANTS

The association of barrows with giants dates back at least as early as Saxon times. In the *Archaeological Journal*, vol. 14, p. 132, J. M. Kemble mentions *Enta hlaew* (= the Giant's barrow) in an Anglo-Saxon charter. The popular belief in the connexion of giants with barrows is also widely distributed, for in Scandinavia chambered barrows are known as Giants' Chambers, and in Germany they are sometimes known as Giants' Graves (*Riesenstuben*). The small chambered barrows in the Scilly Isles and west Cornwall are frequently known as Giants' Graves or Giants' Houses, and in the rest of England giants are connected generally with long barrows but sometimes with round ones. So strong is this tendency that Walter Johnson's dictum is 'fairies for round barrows, giants for long ones'. By way of illustration we may quote the Giant's Stone Barrow near Bisley, Gloucestershire; the Giant's Grave near Milton Lilbourne, Wiltshire; the Giant's Grave at Holcombe, Somerset; and the Giants' Hills near Skendleby, Lincolnshire; all these are long barrows. Among round barrows we have a cratered barrow near Drizzlecombe on Dartmoor, known as the Giant's Basin, a name evidently applied to the crater on top of the mound.

Closely allied to these traditions is the fairly common story that certain barrows, on being opened, have been found to contain the skeleton of 'a very tall man'. Sometimes we are, in the 'report' of excavations, even told that from an examination of the bones of the skeleton it was estimated that the owner thereof must have been 8 feet tall. Such tall stories are not infrequently met with in accounts written during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Of a round barrow at Lesnewth near Tintagel there was a tradition that a gigantic figure could often be seen on top of the mound.

There is little doubt that, as the great Dr. Thurnam suggested, the enormous size of long barrows gave rise to the belief in their association with giants.

2. FAIRIES

The association, in the popular mind, of fairies with barrows is likewise widespread; it exists in Denmark and Brittany as well as in this country, and doubtless in other countries as well. Fairies are also associated in tradition with other prehistoric objects (arrow-heads are sometimes known as elf-darts) and with natural phenomena (the fungus rings on the chalk downs are known as fairy-rings). They are generally considered to live underground.

The chambered round barrow at Carn Gluze, near St. Just in west Cornwall, is said to be the scene of lights burning and the dancing of fairies at night-time. A chambered long barrow in Somerset is called Fairy Toot. Wick Barrow, a round barrow near Stoke Courcy in the same county, is also known as the Pixies' Mound. A round barrow at Beedon, Berkshire, was said to be inhabited by the fairies or 'feeresses' as they are locally called. An example on Beaulieu Heath in the New Forest was called the Pixies' Cave.

Fairy folk-lore is attached to several examples in Yorkshire. A barrow near Folkton is called Elf-howe and one near Driffield is known as Fairy Hill. The well-known Willy Howe near Wold Newton is also supposed to be the abode of fairies, who are also commonly believed to inhabit the houses or barrows in the Cleveland Hills. A cairn near Hetton, Durham, is known as the Fairies' Cradle.

3. THE DEVIL AND GRIM

The traditional association of barrows with the Devil goes back to Saxon times if not earlier, for in an Anglo-Saxon charter quoted by Kemble (*Archaeological Journal*, vol. 14, p. 132) there is mentioned a Seucean hlaew, Anglo-Saxon for the Devil's barrow. Barrows are by no means the only objects associated in the popular mind with the Devil: many of the ancient entrenchments of this country are known as Devil's ditches. The Berkshire portion of Grim's Ditch is also known as the Devil's ditch, and it is likely that Grim often means the Devil. Among natural formations the Devil possesses a number of Punch-bowls.

In Somerset is a long barrow near Beekington known as

'the Devil's Bed and Bolster'. The association of the Devil with Silbury Hill is described in Part II, Chapter VII of this book. Some three miles east of Silbury is the Devil's Den, the megalithic remains of a long barrow in Clatford Bottom west of Marlborough. In West Sussex is a fine group of bell-barrows on Treyford Hill known as the Devil's Jumps, and the four barrows on Bow Hill near-by are generally called the Devil's Humps.

The following item relating to the Six Hills (probably Roman barrows) near Stevenage is quoted from *Folk-lore* volume 26, p. 156:

Near Stevenage are six barrows by the roadside. . . . In an adjoining wood (Wholmeley Wood—L.V.G.) are seven pits, and one barrow. The devil, having dug out six spadefuls of earth, emptied them beside the road, thus making the six barrows. He then returned to the wood, dug another spadeful of earth (thus making the seven pits) and, walking along with this spadeful, dropped it, and thus made the solitary barrow,

long since destroyed.

Near Swaffham, Norfolk, a shepherd related to a friend of the writer's (Mr. F. M. Underhill, of Maidenhead) how the devil was making a ditch, and cleaned his spade by scraping it against a tree. A large lump of earth fell off, which formed the barrow now known as Hangour Hill. A ring-mound among a group of barrows on Brightwell Heath near Ipswich, Suffolk, is known as 'The Devil's Ring'.

It is, of course, natural for some simple folk to attribute anything they cannot otherwise explain to the agency of the Devil.

4. MYTHICAL AND HISTORICAL PERSONAGES

(a) *Mythical Personages*.—A group of barrows on Brown Down, between Chard and Wellington in Somerset, is known as 'Robin Hood's Butts'. Each barrow has a dimple in the centre—doubtless the mark of a former opening. 'Robin Hood and Little John undoubtedly used to throw their quoits from one to the other (a distance of a quarter of a mile): for there is the mark made by pitching the quoits!'

¹ *Gentlemen's Magazine Library, English Tradition*, p. 88.

There is a very large barrow known as Robin Hood's Butt, near Danby in Yorkshire.

On the Wiltshire Downs above Alton Priors is a long barrow known as Adam's Grave. It was known in Saxon times as Woden's barrow.

A long barrow at Southampton was known as Bevis' Mound; the same name is applied to a long mound probably of comparatively recent origin at Arundel Park in Sussex. A variant is Baverse's Thumb, the name of a very fine long barrow near Up Marden in West Sussex. On the downs south-east of Hill (? Deverill) in Wiltshire is a barrow known as Gun's Church. Some one named 'Old Coker' is said to drive some hounds around this barrow periodically.

Gill's Grave was the name of a large barrow which used to exist near Glynde Station, Sussex. According to General Pitt-Rivers, 'Gill appears to be a mythical personage connected with this locality, and the often-told story of throwing a hammer from the top of the hill is repeated of him'.

Concerning the celebrated long barrow on the Berkshire Downs known as Wayland Smith's Cave or Wayland's Smithy, there are several legends, which will be described at some length in Part II, Chapter VIII (The Berkshire Downs). It is sufficient here to draw attention to the best-known legend of Wayland, who was a blacksmith and is said to have dwelt in the cave named after him on the Berkshire Downs near White Horse Hill. The cave, so-called, is in a chambered long barrow, and is really one of the burial-chambers, surmounted by a coverstone. If a traveller whose horse had lost a shoe placed a groat on this coverstone and went away for a few minutes, Wayland the invisible smith would shoe the horse and take away the groat. The legend is expanded in chapters IX to XIV of Sir Walter Scott's *Kenilworth*.

Julaber's Grave is the name of a probable long barrow near Chilham, south-west of Canterbury. It is traditionally the burial-place of a giant named Julaber.

In the Peak district is a barrow known as Hob Hurst's House. Hob o' the Hurst is supposed to be a sprite that haunts woods only.

(b) *Historical Personages*.—A barrow near Veryan Beacon

in Cornwall is traditionally the burial-place of a Cornish saint and king named Gerennius.

A large bowl-barrow on Arreton Down in the Isle of Wight is known as Michael Moorey's Hump. On inquiry of a local innkeeper the writer was told that Michael Moorey had a cave under the mound. Further research revealed the fact that Michael Moorey was hanged from a gibbet that once stood on the barrow.

Some of the barrows on Beaulieu Heath, New Forest, are in tradition supposed to have been thrown up by Oliver Cromwell. There was formerly a probable barrow in Richmond Park, Surrey, known as Oliver's Mound, and the name 'Oliver's Battery' is applied to ancient earthworks near Winchester.

Solomon's Thumb is the local name of a fine long barrow near Up Marden, West Sussex. It is known alternatively as Baverse's Thumb.

'Whitefield's Tump' is the name of a long barrow near Minchinhampton in the Cotswolds. It is so named because George Whitefield probably preached from this spot.

(c) *Supposed Historical Personages.*—Cuckhamsley or Scutechamer Knob on the Berkshire Downs has been thought to be the burial-place of a great Captain Scutechamore.

A large supposed barrow at Shipley (Leicestershire) was said to be the burial-place of a great captain called Shipley.

Staple Hill is the name of a Bronze Age barrow in the North Riding. 'The village folk will have it that the mound was reared over the body of an imaginary General Stupleton, "killed in the Civil Wars"; and they account for its unusual height by declaring that the general, an exceptionally tall man, was buried standing upright.'¹

5. BARROWS AND THE DANES

There is and has for long been a widespread belief that many barrows were erected by the Danes. This is shown not only by examples such as 'The Danes' Graves' in Yorkshire, but also by traditions of battles with the Danes near barrows in many districts, as for instance on Bow Hill near Chichester

¹ Allcroft, *Earthwork of England*, p. 325 (note), where he suggests the name Staple Hill is a corruption of Steeple = Steep Hill.

and at Borough Hills in Essex. A mound, probably mostly natural, near Oxted in Surrey, has been described as a barrow thrown up by the Danes.

It is doubtful if any English barrows contain primary burials of Danes; though it is conceivable that Danish burials might form secondary interments in some barrows. There are however signs of Danish influence in the Bronze Age along the Yorkshire coast.

It is significant that the counties where Danes have been traditionally associated with barrows tend to be those along the east coast which was most subjected to Danish influence, as for instance Yorkshire (Danes' Graves near Driffield, and Danes' Hills on Skipwith Common). It is in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and Norfolk and Suffolk that the anglicized form (howe) of the old Norse *Haugr* is still frequently used to denote barrows.

6. BATTLES

The supposed association of barrows with battles can be traced back for several centuries. Among early references we may quote Sir Thomas Browne, who in his *Tract on Artificial Hills, Mounts and Barrows* (before 1682) stated his belief that some of them were 'sepulchral monuments or hills of interment for remarkable and eminent persons, especially such as died in the wars'. This opinion was very widely held until the latter part of the eighteenth century, and it is still held by many educated people and by a large proportion of the country-folk.

A few items will serve to illustrate this point. The Nine Barrows on Ninebarrow Down, Isle of Purbeck, are supposed to cover the burials of nine kings who were killed in a great battle near-by. The group of barrows on Wash Common near Newbury, Berkshire, are said to cover those slain in the first battle of Newbury, which was fought in the vicinity of the barrows. A barrow near Yattendon in the same county is situated in a field known as England's Battle. The Kings' Graves or Devil's Humps on Bow Hill, Sussex, are said to cover the remains of Danish kings or chiefs killed in a battle. A long barrow on Cliffe Hill near Lewes is known as the Warrior's Grave. Near Newmarket are the sites of two

tumuli known as 'The Two Captains'. A long barrow near Langton, Lincolnshire, is known alternatively as Spellow Hills or the Hills of the Slain. Borough Hills (or Barrow Hills) in Essex are said to cover the bodies of Danes and Saxons killed in a battle near-by. A countryman near Danby (Cleveland) told the writer that a battle is believed to have been fought on Danby Rigg (Ridge), and the dead were buried in the vast necropolis of barrows with which the hill is crowned (see Part II, Chap. XVIII). Further illustrations of battle folk-lore could be multiplied almost indefinitely. The battle-tradition has been explained on the assumption that the country-folk cannot understand any one being buried outside a churchyard except in times of battle.

7. HIDDEN TREASURE

It is known that in Saxon if not in Roman times barrows were sometimes rifled for treasure. The Romans certainly opened some English barrows, and their motive in so doing may well have been the search for hidden wealth. The early Anglo-Saxon poem of Beowulf contains an account of a search for hidden treasure in a chambered barrow, in the recesses of which were 'weapons and rich ornaments and vessels of heathen gold—watched over, as the story goes, for three hundred winters, by a dragon.'¹ In the paper quoted Thurnam gives other examples of treasure watched over by dragons in a barrow near Ludlow and probably at the great barrow known as Maes Howe, Orkney.

Coming to medieval times, we find that in 1324 a Latin document was issued from official quarters authorizing the digging of some barrows for treasure in North Devon—possibly the barrows near Challacombe known as Chapman Barrows. In his book *Random Roaming*, Dr. A. Jessopp describes similar authorizations in Norfolk, given during the reign of Henry VIII. In 1527, a belief was recorded, in Northamptonshire, 'that there was iij thousand poundes of gold and sylver in a bank besides the crosse nygh hand to Kettering, and that it is in ij pottes within the ground'. 'A man sprite and a woman sprite did kepe the said ij pottes.'

¹ Thurnam, in *Archæologia*, vol. 42, p. 202.

Elsewhere in the account the bank is called a 'hyll' and it may therefore well have been a barrow.¹

Let us now cite a few 'treasure-traditions' recorded in comparatively recent times from various parts of Britain. Money Burgh (Sussex), Money Low (Derbyshire), Money Tump (Gloucestershire), and Money Hills (Hampshire) may conceal traditions of money buried in the mounds (but see the next chapter of this book, section 5). A 'pot of money' is said to have been found in a barrow on Stannon Hill, Dartmoor, and similar stories have been related from elsewhere. It is possible that treasure (especially money) may have occasionally been concealed in barrows for safe custody during the Middle Ages, before the development of the modern banking system.

One of the most astonishing traditions relates to the area near the Cheesewring in east Cornwall. The Cheesewring is a prominent mass of rock on the east part of Bodmin Moor. It was locally believed to be the dwelling-place of a priest or Druid who had a cup of gold. When a hunter approached he was offered a drink from this cup which was inexhaustible. One day a hunting party came and one of the hunters was determined to drink the cup dry. He approached the Cheesewring and was duly handed the cup. He drank and drank until he could drink no more, and then infuriated at his failure he threw what remained of the wine in the Druid's face, and rode away with the cup. His horse plunged over the rocks and the rider was killed. He was then, according to tradition, buried with the cup.

In 1818, a cairn near the Cheesewring was opened, and among the things found therein was a gold cup, of a type known to belong to the Early Bronze Age, about 1500 B.C. There is also a tradition of a golden boat having been dug up in a cairn near the Cheesewring.

A cairn on Veryan Beacon was supposed to contain a golden boat and silver oars which were used to convey the deceased—traditionally Gerennius, a Cornish saint—across Gerrans Bay to the cairn.

On Royal Hill, near Princetown, Dartmoor, is a stone cist known as the Crock of Gold. A barrow east of Sidbury

¹ *Archæologia*, vol. 48.

Castle, north of Sidmouth, Devon, is known as the Treasury, or Money Heap, and a crock of gold is said to be buried beneath it.

Gloucestershire offers a parallel to the Cheesewring tradition. A barrow in this county (site apparently unknown) was visited by hunters whenever they were thirsty. The hunter merely called out 'I thirst!' when a cup-bearer appeared with a gold and gem-encrusted horn of delicious liquor. A hunter is said to have stolen the cup and given it to King Henry I.

A triangular field north of Oakridge, near Chalford, Glos., is known as the field of the golden coffin, from the tradition that a Roman general was buried in a golden coffin under a large round barrow which still exists in the field.

Silbury Hill in Wiltshire has two treasure-traditions to its credit—that a man in golden armour on horseback is buried in it, and that in or near the hill a king was buried in a golden coffin.

On Barrow Hill near Beedon, Berkshire, is a tumulus said to have been erected over the burial of a man named Burrow who was buried in a gold or silver coffin.

Goldhorde Field, near Chiddingfold in Surrey, contains a ploughed harrow in which treasure is supposed to exist. The place-name 'Goldhoard' also occurs in other parts of Surrey.

On Firle Hill, Sussex, is a tradition of a silver coffin having been buried. Similar traditions have been noted from Mount Caburn and Wilmington Hill in the same county. Barrows exist in all these districts, but may or may not be connected with the treasure-traditions. The belief in a buried golden calf is also common on the Sussex downs, notably on Clayton Hill and near Goodwood. There appears to have been a belief in a buried crock of gold in the long barrow in Addington Park, Kent (see Part II, Chapter XII).

An extraordinary illustration of treasure tradition occurred when Rev. Bryan Finnisett was opening a Saxon grave-mound on Kingston Downs near Canterbury. His son found in the mound a gold fibula or disc-brooch, 3½ inches in diameter, one of the finest pieces of Saxon jewellery ever found in this country. He handed it to his father who drove home with it in his carriage. The next day the villagers

spread a report that the carriage was so full of gold that the wheels would scarcely turn round: whereupon the lord of the manor refused to allow Faussett to open any more grave-mounds on his land!

The Lexden barrow west of Colechester harboured a belief that it was the burial-place of a king in golden armour with weapons and a gold table. Excavation in 1924 revealed a bronze table and ornaments of bronze and gold with a skeleton clad in chain-mail and wrapped in tunic of a cloth of gold, according to A. H. Verrill, *Secret Treasure*, 1931, p. 27.

From Mold in Flintshire comes a similar tale of a woman who was passing a barrow and saw on it a man on horseback, the horse being clad in golden armour. A short time afterwards the barrow was opened and found to contain a gold peytral or horse's breastplate, which is now in the British Museum.

Both J. R. Mortimer and Canon J. C. Atkinson, in trying to get permission to open barrows in Yorkshire, were given the permission with the 'Yorkshire' stipulation that they should hand over to the landowner any articles of gold or silver that might be found.

Lastly, from Fifeshire comes the picturesque story of a barrow called Norrie's Law which was so full of gold that when sheep lay on it their fleeces turned yellow. The barrow was opened in 1819 and yielded silver relics to the value of £1,000.

Let it be emphasized, however, that perhaps not one barrow in a thousand yields treasure. The deliberate rifling of barrows for treasure nearly always ends in disappointment, as well as being a crime to archaeology. No one who is not scientifically minded should ever attempt excavating barrows (see Part I, Chapter VII).

8. SANCTITY OF SITE

While hidden treasure traditions have resulted in the looting of a large number of ancient sites, belief in site-sanctity has had the opposite effect. There is no doubt that the fear that the disturbing of barrows would result in terrible happenings, has been conducive to their preservation. There is a story of a native of Challacombe, Devon, who opened a barrow near-by

and immediately afterwards thought he heard ghosts and horses galloping after him. He became so terrified that he died. Whether true or not, this tale illustrates the way in which barrows are and have been regarded by many country-folk.

The night after Dr. Borlase had opened one of the 'Giant's Grave' barrows in the Scilly Islands, a hurricane blasted the crops of corn and potatoes in the district, and the islanders attributed the storm to Borlase having incurred the wrath of the giants by opening the barrow. The belief that barrow-opening may result in a severe thunderstorm has also been recorded at Beedon and Inkpen in Berkshire.

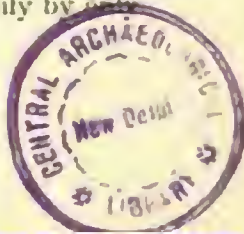
Near Widecombe-in-the-Moor, Dartmoor, a clergyman opened a stone cist which was originally covered by a barrow, and that very night his house is said to have fallen to ruins as the result of a loud explosion.

In 1859 a farmer in the Isle of Man offered up a heifer in sacrifice to prevent any harm from befalling him in consequence of the opening of a barrow on his land.

9. IMMOVABILITY OF STONES OF CHAMBERED BARROWS

Closely allied to traditions of site-sanctity are those relating to the immovability of the large stones forming structural features of chambered long and round barrows. The stones of Zennor Quoit (Part II, Chapter I) are said to be immovable, and if any one *does* move them they return to their former position by the following morning. The Whittlestone near Lower Swell, Gloucestershire, could not be moved by 'all the king's horses and all the king's men' according to Rev. David Royce. It has been moved and is now in the garden of Lower Swell vicarage. A similar story of immovability attaches to the Hoar Stone near-by. Both these stones may have formed parts of chambered long barrows. The cap-stone of the 'Whispering Knights' group of stones at Roll-right is said to have required a large number of horses to drag it down the hill to form a bridge across a stream: every night afterwards the stone moved, so it was decided to move it back to its former position. This was done easily by only one horse.

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10. CALENDAR CUSTOMS

At one time Silbury Hill was thronged every Palm Sunday afternoon by hundreds from Avebury, Kennet, Overton, and the adjoining villages. The Hove tumulus, Sussex, destroyed about 1856, was the scene of village games every Good Friday. The custom of 'making merry with cakes and ale' was practised near the Rollright Stones on a certain day in the year. Not far from Willoughby, near Newark, was a barrow called Cross Hill, the scene of an anniversary festival.

Barrows near Wold Newton (Ball Hill) and Driffield (near King's Mill) on the Yorkshire Wolds are (or were till very recently) the scene of playing the game of Thrown-egg on Shrove Tuesdays. Mr. R. Cousins of Wold Newton told the writer about the former, and Mr. W. D. Ridley, a former resident of Driffield, told the writer about the latter. The game is thus described by John Nicholson: 'Men and youths used to have hard-boiled eggs, which they "throwled" (rolled) on the grass. The eggs were dyed, and he whose egg rolled the farthest, or longest, was the winner.'

11. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

(a) *Ghosts*.—A headless ghost was said to haunt the district near a barrow on Roundway Down, near Devizes. After the barrow was opened and a skeleton found, the ghost ceased to walk. A headless horseman is supposed to ride through the air over Barrow Fields, Newquay, Cornwall, at midnight, carrying his head under his arm; horses are also heard rushing through the air.

(b) *Music and Noises*.—Noises are said to be heard beneath the long barrow called Fairy Toot in Somerset. Beautiful music comes from a barrow at Sidwell Fields, Quantock Hills, at night-time. Music is also said to be heard at midday at the apex of 'Music Barrow' at Culliford Tree, Bincombe Downs, Dorset.

(c) *Underground Passages* are said to exist at Wayland's Smithy, Berkshire, and at Lodge Park and Lamborough Banks long barrows in the Cotswolds. There is also a fable of an underground passage between Eastlow Hill barrow and

¹ *Folk-Lore of East Yorkshire*, 1890, p. 12.

Bury St. Edmunds, as I was informed by someone living opposite Eastlow Hill. It must be emphasized that 'under-ground passage' traditions are very commonly associated with historic buildings and many other monuments.

(d) *Countless Stones*.—The belief that the stones comprising a megalith cannot be counted correctly has been recorded of the Hurlers, Cornwall; Stanton Drew, Somerset (Part II, Chapter III); the Rollright Stones, the 'Countless Stones' burial-chamber near Aylesford in Kent, and Long Meg and her Daughters, Cumberland. Concerning the latter, or 'Mag and her Sisters', Celia Fiennes wrote: 'they affirm they Cannot be Counted twice alike as is the story of Stonidge' (Stonehenge).

(e) *'Midnight Flits'*.—Between Farway and Houlton is an ancient stone, possibly the remains of a megalithic barrow, which, according to tradition, descends the hill and bathes in a stream every night, returning to its original position before the following morning.

When the Minchinhampton Long Stone (Gloucestershire) *hears* the clock strike twelve it runs round the field in which it is situated. When the Whittlestone (Lower Swell, Gloucestershire) *hears* the clock strike twelve, it goes down to Lady-well at the foot of the hill to drink.

The 'King Stone' and 'Whispering Knights' at Rollright are supposed to go down the hill and drink in a neighbouring stream at midnight, and there is said to be a gap in the hedge through which the stones are supposed to pass for this purpose. The same story is told of some of the megaliths of Brittany.

(f) *Human Beings Turned into Stones*.—The three stone circles known as 'The Hurlers' on Bodmin Moor are traditionally 'men transform'd into stones, for playing at ball on Sunday', as Camden wrote in 1587. They were supposed to be playing a game known as Hurling, at one time much in vogue in Cornwall.

Several of the Dartmoor stone circles (some of which are merely the 'retaining-walls' of destroyed round barrows) represent maidens transformed into stone for dancing on Sunday. The Belstone 'Nine Stones' on the northern fringe

¹ *Diary*, pp. 168-9.

of Dartmoor have this tradition, and are said still to dance at noon. 'This may be accounted for by the effect of those

Tremulous vapours of dim noontide

which on hot summer days rise over the moor.'—Beatrix Cresswell, in her book on *Dartmoor*.¹

The Stanton Drew (Somerset) Stone circles, otherwise known as 'The Weddings', are so-called from a belief that they were maidens turned into stones for continuing the festivities of a Saturday wedding into the following Sunday morning (Part II. Chapter III). The circle known as Long Meg and her Daughters in Cumberland is thus described by Celia Fiennes in her *Diary* (p. 168):

A mile from Peroth [Penrith] in a Low bottom and moorish place stands Mag and her sisters; the story is that these soliciting her to an Unlawfull Love by an Enchantment are turned wth her into stone; the stone in the middle w^{ch} is Call'd Mag is much bigger and have some forme Like a statue or figure of a body, but the Rest are but soe many Cragg stones.

(g) *The Luck and Curative Property of Holed Stones*.—The celebrated holed stone called Mên-an-tol in west Cornwall is known also as the Crick Stone, from the belief that children if passed naked through the hole three (or nine) times and drawn on the grass three (or nine) times against the sun, are safe from the affliction called crick in the neck. Similar fables are related of other holed stones in Cornwall and elsewhere. If children are passed through a hole in the Long Stone, near Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, they are cured of, or prevented from getting, measles, whooping cough, and other infantile ailments.

Similar properties are traditionally possessed by smaller holed stones. From *Folk-Lore* (vol. 6, p. 126) we learn that in parts of Suffolk a holed stone tied to the head of the bed prevents nightmare. Sidrophel, in *Hudibras*, could—

Charm evil spirits away, by dint
Of sickle, horseshoe, hollow flint.

Moreover, Aubrey says in his *Miscellanies* that 'a flint will do that hath not a hole in it', as stated by W. Johnson (*Folk-Memory*, p. 129).

¹ *Homeland Handbooks*, vol. 8, p. 54.

(h) *Good Turns by Pixies, Fairies, &c.*—A ploughman was once working near a barrow at Sidwell Fields, on the Quantock Hills. He heard what he thought was a child crying because it had broken its 'peel', (which was a wooden shovel used to put bread into the old brick-ovens). He mended the 'peel' and left it on the barrow. The instrument disappeared and in its place was put a cake hot from the oven of the grateful pixie.

A similar story was related by M. A. Lower from the neighbourhood of Alfriston, Sussex.¹

An analogous story is told of a barrow near Beedon in Berkshire. A ploughman who broke his share near the spot went to get tools to mend it, and when he returned he found that the fairies (or fecresses as they are locally called) had mended it during his absence.

(i) *Feasts in Barrows.*—The stories of the golden goblet near the Cheesewring, Cornwall, and of the golden drinking-horn in Gloucestershire, have already been described in the Hidden Treasure section of this chapter. It remains to relate the story of Willy Howe, in Yorkshire. I cannot do better than give it in the words of E. S. Hartland:

One night a man was riding home from the village of North Burton, when he heard, as he drew near, sounds of merriment issuing from the Howe. He saw a door open in the side of the mound, and riding close to it, he looked in, and beheld a great feast. One of the cupbearers approached and offered him drink. He took the cup, threw out the contents and galloped off. The fairy banqueters gave chase, but he succeeded in distancing them and reaching home with his prize in safety. . . . Now this story, current to-day in the vicinity, is told by William of Newbridge in the thirteenth century.²

(j) *Apronfuls of Stones.*—On Ilkley Moors in the West Riding of Yorkshire are two cairns known as the Skirtful and the Little Skirtful of Stones. It is possible that their names may be connected with the legend of Wade, who is claimed by some folk-lorists to have been the father of Wayland the Smith. Wade is supposed to have constructed a causeway over the moors near Pickering with stones brought by his wife in her apron; but her apron-strings

¹ *Allies, Antiquities of Worcestershire*, p. 420.

² *Trans. Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society*, vol. 30, p. 78.

broke and the stones fell down in a heap; hence Wade's Causeway. At Loughcrew in West Meath is a similar tradition of some cairns in the neighbourhood having been built by the Hag of Beare who brought the stones in her apron.

In concluding this account of barrow folk-lore the writer thinks it well to emphasize that some of the traditions described are by no means confined to barrows. Traditions of buried treasure in particular are found connected with sites of all kinds.

Those specially interested in the folk-lore aspect should note that the regional surveys in Part II of this work contain a number of items not repeated in this chapter as reiteration would result in waste of space.

Lastly, the writer cannot guarantee that all the traditions herein described are still current, but they have all been recorded at some time or other,¹ and nearly all of them have been recorded in writings published during the last century. Full documentation has not been considered necessary as the writer hopes to publish a more detailed account with full references sometime in the future.

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¹ Except those stated in the text as having been collected at first hand from the country-folk by the writer.

CHAPTER IV

LOCAL NAMES

A fragment of history remains fossilized, as it were, in each name.
SIR CHARLES CLOSE, *The Map of England*, 1932

THE study of each aspect of barrow-science is one of colossal magnitude. An adequate study of the local name aspect would involve a search of all the six-inch-to-the-mile Ordnance Survey maps of England, numbering in all about ten thousand sheets, noting all the local names of barrows marked thereon. These local names should then be traced back to their earlier forms with the aid of early documents, including the Saxon Land Charters. The interpretation of these names is another very big task, and can be done only by an expert in place-name study.

The present chapter is the outcome of a careful examination of about ten thousand 6-inch O.S. maps covering England, and of a good deal of subsidiary research as well. Any faults in the following narrative are probably due to my mistaken interpretations of the names collected.

GENERAL NAMES

It is the policy of the Ordnance Survey to mark nearly all barrows as 'tumuli' on their maps, sometimes adding the special local names of the mounds. But barrows are locally known under different names in different areas. Thus in Scotland, Cumberland, Westmorland, and Yorkshire, they are known as hows, haues, haws or howes, from the Old Norse Haugr, a mound or cairn. In Derbyshire, Cheshire, and Staffordshire the almost universal term is 'low', from the Saxon hlaew, meaning an earthen mound. The term is also used occasionally in the southern counties, as at Taplow, Bucks (Taeppa's hlaew = 'Taeppa's Barrow'). The word low

is also frequently used for natural hills. In Gloucestershire and Herefordshire tump is a common barrow-name. Norn's Tump and Windmill Tump, both long barrows in Gloucestershire, are typical examples. In most of the southern counties barrow, burrow, borough, and burgh (the latter especially in Sussex) are common. These words when applied to barrows are all probably derived from the Old English beorg, a mound. It is important to note that both beorg and blaew originally meant a mound or little hill, and were not necessarily always applied to burial-mounds. That is why both words are sometimes attached to natural hills. In the New Forest and elsewhere, tumuli are sometimes known as butts (e.g., Fritham Butt). In the Channel Islands houguc is the usual name, and is derived from the same word as how (haugr). La Hougue Bie is a famous example in Jersey.

Occasionally other names are used. Toot is used in Somerset (Fairy's Toot near Nempnett) and elsewhere. Cop is used in various regions (Adwell Cop, Oxon; Cop Low, Peak district). Mout is found occasionally in most districts, but more often than not it denotes a natural eminence or else a medieval mound and not a barrow. Hill is sometimes found, as at the Six Hills near Stevenage, Herts, and the Five Hills on Thersfield Heath in the same county. Hill is also a common barrow-name in Norfolk, and also occurs in Suffolk and Cambridgeshire (e.g., the Chronicle Hills in the latter county). Knoll is another name sometimes used for tumuli (as at the Five Knolls, near Dunstable, Beds.).

It is not uncommon for barrow-names to be redundant, as in Barrow Hills near Chertsey, Surrey; Cop Low in Derbyshire, both cop and low meaning a mound; Kit's Coty House, Kent, where coty means a house (coty = cottage). Howe Hill and Howe's Hill occur in Yorkshire and Norfolk. Cop-low Hill, Warwickshire, appears to be doubly redundant, but the maps do not mark a barrow there.

PARTICULAR NAMES

All these general names may be qualified by a prefix or by another word forming the barrow-name.

(1) *Personal Names*.—These qualifying words or prefixes sometimes, and in Derbyshire frequently, take the form of

personal names. In a paper on 'The Names of the Derbyshire and Staffordshire Barrows' Mr. S. O. Addy noted that nearly all the Derbyshire personal names attached to barrows are those of men. Among the names he discussed are Kenslow, from a man's name Cyne; Knot-low west of Bakewell from Cnut, a personal name that may have been fairly common, the best known representative being King Cnut or Canute. Minning Low, one of the most famous of Derbyshire barrows, he derived from the personal name Minning, perhaps related to Manning. Off-low he associated with Offa, a name possessed also by the man who gave his name to Offa's Dyke. He also mentioned a few barrows named from much more modern names such as Martin's Low and Pegge's Low. Mr. A. H. Smith, in the English Place-Name Society's volume on the North Riding of Yorkshire, suggested that Sexhowe and Sil Howe may be associated with Scandinavian personal names Sekkr and Sile. Willy Howe near Wold Newton in the East Riding is from Will o' the Wisp who is in tradition associated with this barrow (see the chapter on Folk-lore, pp. 42 and 55). In Derbyshire is Hob Hurst's House, from Hob o' the Hurst. In the Cotswolds we have Hetty Pegler's Tump, named from an early owner of the land in the vicinity. Barrows known as Robin Hood's Butts exist in Yorkshire, Shropshire, Somerset, and elsewhere. The Devil has given his name to a number of barrows described in the Folk-lore chapter.

Adam's Grave is the name of a prominent long barrow on the Wiltshire Downs near Marlborough, and it was formerly known as Woden's Burrow. The celebrated Sir Bevis of Southampton is not without his alleged barrow, Bevis's Grave at Southampton. In Buckinghamshire is Taplow, or Taeppa's hlaew; Taeppa was a Saxon chief whose hlaew was opened and the elaborate grave furniture found therein removed to the British Museum. Taplow is one of the few examples where the personal name attached to the barrow is the name of the person buried therein. In most other barrows the personal names are much later than the date of construction of the barrows to which they relate. On the Berkshire Downs is Wieland's or Wayland's Smithy, named from a figure in early Germanic Legend. A long barrow near Comp-

ton in west Sussex is appropriately called Solomon's Thumb. On Arreton Down in the Isle of Wight is Michael Moorey's Hump, so-called from a murderer who was hanged on a gibbet that once stood on the mound.

Enough has been written to show that while a very few Saxon barrows have attached to them the name of the Saxon chief buried therein (as at Taplow), the majority of personal names are much later than the barrows to which they relate. Sometimes the personal names originate from folk-lore, and occasionally they are the names of former landowners or other people connected with the locality.

(2) *Situation*.—A number of examples in the northern counties are named from their situation, as at Western Howes in Cleveland, and several examples in Derbyshire and Staffordshire (lower low, nether low, over low, south and west lows, under and upper lows, and high low). Situated in a desolate part of the Peak district, at 2000 feet above sea level, is Bleak Low.

Some tumuli are named from the villages near them, as at Duggleby Howe in Yorkshire (East Riding), Baughurst Barrows in Berkshire, and Fritham Butt and Shirley Barrow in the New Forest.

In Sussex, near Alfriston, is Five Lords' Burgh, at one time the meeting point of five parish boundaries and still the meeting point of four. Near Lewes is Four Lords' Burghs, a group of barrows on the boundary of four parishes.

Bush Barrow near Stonehenge is named from the vegetation with which it is crowned; likewise Fern barrows between Dorchester and Canford, Dorset.

(3) *Shape, Size, Composition, and Colour*.—Two cairns in the West Riding of Yorkshire are known as 'The Skirtful of Stones' and 'The Little Skirtful of Stones'. Other Yorkshire tumuli are known as Round Hill, Black Howes, Brown Hill, and Flat Howe. Basin Howe is so called from the basin-like depression in the centre. In the same county is an example called Pudding Pie Hill, which may be paralleled by Pudding Barrow in the New Forest.

From Derbyshire and Staffordshire we have Great Low, High Low, Long Low, and Round Low. Stan Low in the Peak district is the stony barrow. Among colour-names

may be quoted the Black Burgh near Brighton, which yielded a quantity of black earth when opened; Brown Low is in Cheshire; and there is a White Barrow on Dartmoor. It is possible however that these colour-names may be modern personal names.

Among other names may be cited Upton Great Barrow in Wiltshire, the Long Burgh near Alfriston in Sussex, Round Butt in the New Forest, Sandy Barrow east of Dorchester in Dorset, and Old Barrow on Exmoor. The latter is doubtless so called on account of local recognition of its antiquity.

Black barrows exist in several places, but sometimes they are natural (as in natural outcrops in the Isle of Wight and near Bournemouth).

(4) *Use or Association*.—Barrows have frequently been used as windmill-steads, and among examples put to this use are the long barrow known as Windmill Tump, near Rodmarton in the Cotswolds; The Mill Ball on Bury Hill near Arundel, Sussex; Windmill Barrow six miles south-east of Blandford, Dorset; and several Mill Hills in Yorkshire. But Millbarrows south-east of Winchester is unconnected with a windmill, being the *Melan beorh* of a Saxon charter.¹

Among barrows that have served as sites for gallows may be mentioned Gallow Howe in Yorkshire, Gallow Howe near Castleton, Cleveland, Gallow Hill near Salthouse in Norfolk, and Galley Hills near Baustead in Surrey. The Combe Gibbet long barrow in south Berkshire is still crowned by a gallows.

Tumuli have frequently served as beacons. Several of them were used for beacon-bonfires on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of His late Majesty King George V. Tumble Beacon near Baustead in Surrey may originally have been a burial-mound. On the Yorkshire Moors are 'Beacon Howes'.

The possible use of barrows as folk-moots is suggested in a few names, e.g., Moot Low in the Peak district and Moot Hill in Northants. Forhoe Hundred in Norfolk met at the Four Houses, remains of which are still visible.

Bole Lows in the Peak district are named from disused bole-hills (connected with lead-working) in the vicinity.

¹ It is just possible, however, that this may, after all, be intended for *Mylen beorh* = Anglo-Saxon for Mill barrow.

Robbed Howe (North Riding) has a central cavity 30 feet across and 3 feet deep, the result of a former excavation or looting. Burnt Howe in the same county might have witnessed a heath-fire.

(5) *Folk-lore*.—The influence of folk-lore on barrow-names may be estimated by referring to the folk-lore chapter of this book. Here it is sufficient to mention Money Tump (the tump or barrow believed to contain money); Money Laws in Northumberland (this may mean many barrows); Money Hill¹ was on the boundary of two estates, and 'when the boundaries were being perambulated money was scrambled for at the spot, in order to impress the better upon the memory of the persons assembled the limits of the manor'. Other significant names are Hurdlow (the low supposed to contain a hoard of treasure); the Crock of Gold; the Golden Hoard; the Warrior's Grave; the Giant's Grave; Fairy's Toot; Elf Howe; Music Barrow; the Devil's Jumps; the Kings' Graves. Occasionally, as at Deadmen's Graves in Suffolk and Lincolnshire, and Deadman's Hill in Norfolk, the name originates from a tradition (supported by fact) of a man having been buried in the tumulus in question.

(6) *Numbers*.—There is a 'Single Barrow' on Dartmoor. On Roughton Heath, Norfolk, are a pair known as 'Two Hills'. 'The Two Captains' were the name of a couple of barrows, now destroyed, near Newmarket Racecourse, Cambridgeshire. Groups known as 'Three Barrows' are very common in several counties, including Yorkshire where they are of course known as 'Three Howes'. 'Four Barrows' occurs at Sugar Hill near Ailbourne, Wiltshire, and also near Tregavethan in Cornwall. 'The Five Hills' are on Therfield Heath, Herts, and a group called 'Five Barrows' is near Holystone, Northumberland. 'The Six Hills' are the well-known barrows south of Stevenage, Herts, and are probably Roman. 'Seven Barrows' is very common, especially in Wiltshire, Suffolk, and Norfolk. The famous Lambourn Seven Barrows, Berkshire, consists of over twenty barrows. Priddy Nine Barrows are on the Mendip Hills, and near Corfe in Dorset is Nine Barrow Down. Groups known as 'Three' and 'Seven Barrows' appear to be commoner

¹ Greenwell's *British Barrows*, p. 329, No. cxxi.

than those of other numbers. The number of tumuli in the group does not necessarily correspond to the number in the group-name. Peculiar significance has been attached in the popular mind to the numbers three and seven from very early times.

(7) *Barrow-names given by Archaeologists* must be carefully distinguished from true local names. Sir Richard Colt Hoare sometimes opened Wiltshire barrows and named them according to their contents. Thus if he found a rich array of grave-goods including gold ornaments he would name the mound 'Golden Barrow' or 'King Barrow'. An example he opened near Tidworth yielded arrow-heads and deer-horns, and this was evidently the grave of a hunter surrounded by his spoil and weapons; so Hoare named the barrow 'The Hunter's Barrow'. Another great barrow-namer was Stukeley, who called them after Archdruids, Druids, Bards, Priests, and many other figures of his fertile imagination.

(8) *Barrow-Sites revealed by Field-Names*.—It was truly written by J. R. Mortimer that 'the approximate sites of many obliterated barrows seem to be indicated by the names of the fields in the neighbourhood'. Names such as barrow piece, barrow field, bury fields, the lows, burrow hill, five-barrow hill, may frequently indicate the sites of barrows even if the mounds themselves have long been ploughed out or otherwise destroyed.

Near Chiddingfold in Surrey is goldhorde field, so-named because of the existence therein of a nearly-levelled tumulus in which a hoard of gold was supposed to be concealed. A field near Oakridge in the Cotswolds is known as Golden Collin field, from a tradition of a golden collin having been buried there, and the site is known to have been covered by a barrow.

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CHAPTER V

MAPS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

If you will have a young man to put his travel into a little room . . . let him carry with him some card, or book, describing the country where he travelleth.—FRANCIS BACON, *Essay Of Travel*

In the last chapter it was stated that, with a few exceptions, barrows are marked as 'tumuli' on all the Ordnance Survey maps on which they appear. The word tumulus is nearly always written on these maps in **Old English** type, but when the barrows are known to be Roman, as at Bartlow Hills, **EGYPTIAN CAPITALS** are generally used. A number of burial-mounds with local names have their local names marked, the word tumulus being added in brackets.

THE ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS

At the present day the Ordnance Survey maps of England are almost the only ones worth the serious attention of the student of archaeology. They are published on several scales, those which are most important for our purpose being 25 inches, 6 inches, 1 inch, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, to the mile.

The 25-inch map is exceedingly good, but is unnecessarily large and costly for ordinary work. Each sheet costs 6s. 8d., and covers an area of $1\frac{1}{4}$ square miles.

The best maps for those interested in archaeology are undoubtedly those on the scale of 6 inches to the mile. Like the 25-inch maps, the 6-inch maps are arranged in sets for each county. That is to say, each county is covered by a set of 6-inch maps, the sheets of which are numbered from 1 onwards. Each sheet is divided into quarter-sheets. Thus the Somerset 6-inch Ordnance Survey map No. 1 is divided into quarter-sheets numbered 1 N.W., N.E., S.W., and S.E.

Each quarter-sheet covers an area of six square miles and costs 2s.

All the known barrows are (or should be) marked on the 6-inch O.S. maps, and the scale is sufficiently large to enable the student to add the sites he discovers to the map with reasonable accuracy. Most counties have archaeological societies which have a complete set of the 6-inch O.S. maps of their own county. Some of these societies have means whereby students can borrow maps if they are engaged in really serious work, as for instance the searching for unrecorded tumuli and other earthworks, or the searching of ploughed fields for prehistoric flint implements.

There have been two or three editions of the 6-inch O.S. maps for most of the English counties. The first editions date from about 1850. Later editions, revised, generally appear at intervals of 25 or 30 years, but the work of revision has recently been hindered by the Great War and the world depression, and the latest editions of these maps are therefore not always up to date. When working up the archaeology of a particular region, the student should make a special point of consulting the earlier editions of the 6-inch and 1-inch O.S. maps. The present writer, in his researches on the barrows of Sussex, found quite a number of barrows marked on the earlier editions which do not appear on the later ones.

Most of the readers of this book will find the 1-inch Popular Edition O.S. maps best suited to their requirements. These maps are as indispensable to the Rambler, cyclist, and motorist, as the 6-inch maps are to the student of ancient sites. It is true that many cyclists and motorists are in the habit of using $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch and $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch maps, but these are of little use to the searcher after ancient monuments, the scale being too small to mark more than a few of the more important remains. Very few barrows are marked on these maps.

The Popular Edition 1-inch maps range in price from 1s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. each, according to whether the sheets are required flat, folded, folded and mounted, or folded, mounted, and dissected. Most people use the 2s. 6d. variety, folded and mounted on linen. Each sheet normally covers an area of between 450 and 500 square miles. Most of the sheets,

except a few of the Midlands, have a fair number of tumuli marked thereon.

Some of the best barrow-areas are also covered by the special 'Tourist Maps', which are produced on lines similar to those of the Popular 1-inch maps and are on the same scale. Among the regions covered by the 'Tourist maps' are Dartmoor, the Peak District, the New Forest, and the South Downs—four of the finest stretches of walking country, teeming with places of archaeological interest and natural beauty.

Among the most recent maps are those of the 1-inch O.S. Fifth Edition and Fifth (Relief) Edition. The sheets already published cover some of the southern counties, and they are the same price as the Popular Edition. The chief alteration is in the type used for printing the place-names. The archaeological information is much more up to date. For example, the Addington and Coldrum megaliths, described in earlier maps in error as Stone Circles, are now correctly described as Burial-Chambers. On the Dartmoor sheets the old word *kistvaen* is being replaced by *cist*, and on the Cornwall sheets *cromlech* is being replaced by *burial-chamber*.

The 1-inch maps are very valuable to those wishing to visit ancient monuments, but they are not so useful for detailed original work, the scale being too small to mark newly discovered sites with precision. It must here be emphasized that in most counties there are still a large number of barrows and other earthworks awaiting discovery. The best way to find these earthworks is to take a 6-inch map and work over the ground covered by it very thoroughly on foot, exploring every field, and especially every hilltop. Whoever pursues this course is bound to discover previously unsuspected earthworks, unless he is working an area that has been thoroughly explored by others, and this is the exception rather than the rule.

EARLY MAPS

The earliest important maps of the English counties are those by Christopher Saxton, which date from about 1574 till about 1580. Saxton's maps are of great beauty. They mark county boundaries, towns, villages, churches, woods, and rivers, but do not mark any roads. The rivers are

generally drawn much too wide. The hills are drawn in relief and of course there are no contours. The quaint spelling of the place-names gives additional interest to the maps and increases their value to the student of place-names. The sea is drawn with a plentiful supply of sixteenth-century galleons, sailing ships, and dolphins. Among other early map-makers or cartographers are John Speed (whose maps are largely based on those by Saxton) and John Norden. Speed's maps are nearly always adorned with the coats-of-arms of the nobility of the county represented on the map. These maps of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, as may be expected, have very few barrows marked on them. Saxton's map of Berkshire, however, has Cuckhamsley marked. (On Cuckhamsley Hill is a large mound called Cwichelm's hlaew, or Cwichelm's mound. It was long thought to be a barrow but recent excavation has cast doubt upon its origin.)

With a few exceptions, no maps of outstanding importance to the barrow-student were done until the middle of the eighteenth century. Between 1720 and 1780 Emmanuel Bowen and his son produced large-scale maps of some English counties, and between 1750 and 1770 John Rocque did the same for certain southern counties, including a very fine map of Surrey of which there appear to have been three editions. Several barrows are marked on this map. Between 1780 and 1835 John Cary produced some maps of the English counties, and the late Sir H. G. Fordham, a very eminent authority on early maps, has described Cary as 'the most distinguished of our British cartographers'. These fine county maps by the Bowens, Rocque, Cary, and others are of great value to the student of ancient remains, for they mark many important sites and frequently reveal information which does not appear on the present day maps. Cary's map of Wiltshire, for example, marks a chambered long barrow known as Mill Barrow near Berwick Bassett north of Avebury. This monument is now destroyed. The same map marks the Foss Way, the Roman road between Aldbourne and Cricklade, Liddington and Barbury Camps, the Ridgeway east of Liddington Camp, the Roman road between Bath and Marlborough, Oldbury Camp, Silbury Hill, Sidbury Camp, the

Wansdyke, Bratton Castle, the Westbury White Horse, Ell Barrow (a long barrow north of Stonehenge), Stauchenge, a long barrow near Durrington, a number of barrows near Tidworth, and many other sites.

Between 1820 and 1830 some good maps were done by C. and J. Greenwood. Their map of Berkshire marks Wayland Smith's Cave, Cuckhamslow Hill, 'Round Barrow' south-east of Blewbury, the Lambourn Seven Barrows, Baughurst Barrows near the Hampshire border, and 'Three Barrows' on Wash Common south of Newbury.

Private map-production dwindled greatly as soon as the Ordnance Survey maps had obtained a footing. The history of the Ordnance Survey may be briefly told. After some valuable preliminary work had been done by General William Roy, author of *Military Antiquities of the Romans in North Britain*, Colonel William Mudge directed the Survey from 1798 till his death in 1820. Mudge was an indefatigable worker and the first few sheets of the 1-inch O.S. maps were prepared and published under his direction. The first sheet was published in 1801 and covered a part of Kent. In 1840 the 6-inch-to-the-mile survey of England began, and in 1863 the surveying for the 25-inch maps was begun. In about 1921, Mr. O. G. S. Crawford was appointed Archaeology Officer to the Ordnance Survey and this naturally resulted in the more correct marking of antiquities on the maps. The great importance of the large-scale maps to the archaeologist has already been emphasized.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MAPS

It remains to review a number of very important maps produced for the purpose of showing the distribution of ancient sites. Although maps of the whole of England in Roman and Saxon times date from 1720 or earlier, the earliest important large-scale archaeological maps known to the writer are those in Sir R. Colt Hoare's *Ancient Wiltshire* (1810-1819). These maps are on the scale of 1 inch to the mile and mark the majority of the barrows in that extremely prolific county. There is also a larger scale map of the Environs of Stonehenge in the same work. These maps are

of enormous value for the study of Wiltshire barrows, as they are primarily barrow-maps.

The next map of importance is that of *Dorsetshire: Its Celtic, Roman, Saxon, and Danish Vestiges* by Charles Warne (1866). Although vastly inferior to Colt Hoare's maps, it is delicately drawn and coloured, and marks camps, barrows, trackways, and other sites. Roman remains are marked in red. The map brings out the frequency of barrows in the north-east area and also along the ridgeway between Askerswell and Sutton Poyntz, south of Dorchester. The barrows are shown in elevation, not in plan. The map also contains an inset drawing of the Hell Stone burial-chamber near Portisham.

A more valuable map is that accompanying Witts's *Archaeological Handbook of Gloucestershire* (1883). On this map, which is on the scale of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to the mile, Witts marked all the long and round barrows then known, many of which he had found himself, and along the margin of the map he placed plans of some of the more famous long barrows among other antiquities. The map also marks camps, ancient tracks and Roman roads, and Roman villas. Each site is given a number corresponding to that in the letterpress of the Handbook.

From 1900 to the present day, maps of Stone Age, Bronze Age, Early Iron Age, Roman, and Saxon sites of each county have been published in the *Victoria County Histories*. These are valuable but many of them are already out of date. Similar maps, smaller but more up to date, are appearing in Methuen's *County Archaeology* volumes (1930 onwards). Counties already published are Cornwall and Scilly, Somerset, Berkshire, Surrey, Kent, London and Middlesex, and Yorkshire, and a volume on Sussex is now in preparation.

The most beautiful of all English archaeological maps is undoubtedly that by Mr. Heywood Sumner, entitled *A Map of Ancient Sites in the New Forest, Cranborne Chase, and Bournemouth District*, 1923. This beautifully drawn map by Heywood Sumner, who is equally noted as an artist, archaeologist, and topographical writer, is the result of a long lifetime of research, undertaken by one who has spent nearly his whole life of over eighty years in the region covered by the

map, and has studied it from almost every aspect. On this map he has marked all the known long and round barrows, camps, enclosures, and entrenchments in black. All Roman and Romano-British sites are marked in red, and include roads, villages, villas, sites of pottery kilns, and isolated finds. Post-Roman sites are marked in green. Many of the sites have been excavated and described by Mr. Sumner, who has written several books dealing with this region.

We now come to the archaeological maps published by the Ordnance Survey. These are largely the work of Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, who has probably done more work on English archaeological maps than any one else. As archaeology officer to the Ordnance Survey, Mr. Crawford is a geographical archaeologist, or an archaeological geographer. Largely as the result of his own work, a number of maps of the distribution of long barrows and other sites have been published for different regions. The first to appear (1922) was a map of the distribution of long barrows and certain other sites in the area of sheet 8 of the O.S. $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch map, covering the Cotswolds and surrounding districts. Two years later appeared a similar map covering sheet 12, which includes Kent, Surrey, and Sussex. Another eight years lapsed before the appearance of the next map (1932) which is of Neolithic Wessex. This was followed in 1933 by a map showing the distribution of long barrows, megaliths, and certain other monuments in the area of the Trent Basin (sheet 6a of the $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch map); the fieldwork and research for this map were done by Mr. C. W. Phillips, F.S.A.

These four maps are an archaeological revelation. The natural features and line-drawing of the maps are done in pale grey, the hills being shaded in pale brown. The barrows are then superimposed by heavy black symbols, which show up against the rest of the map which is in the nature of a background. Each site is numbered, and these numbers correspond to a numbered list of antiquities which is published as a key to each map. The maps also have an introduction, generally from the authoritative pen of Mr. Crawford, who gives a brief account of the chief antiquities of each region and their distribution. His account of the antiquities of sheet 12 (Cotswolds and surrounding areas) has been greatly

extended and published in book form (*The Long Barrows of the Cotswolds*, 1925).

It is the intention of the Ordnance Survey to continue issuing maps of the distribution of long barrows &c., in different districts until the whole of England and Wales has been done, when the results will be pieced together and served up in a general map.

Six maps of Celtic earthworks on Salisbury Plain are now in course of preparation, on a scale of between two and three inches to the mile. The first one, covering Old Sarum, has already appeared. All the known barrows are shown, whether long or round, and many of these barrows are appearing on maps for the first time, having been discovered from the air. These maps of Salisbury Plain are based on a large number of air-photographs which have revealed many new and unsuspected sites.

Attention should also be drawn to the O.S. 'Period' maps of Britain. *Roman Britain* has already appeared, and a map of Saxon sites is being produced. These maps are, however, not very important to the barrow-student, except for the purpose of showing the distribution of population during a given period.

THE STUDY OF DISTRIBUTIONS

The value of a distribution-map rests largely on the inferences that can reasonably be drawn from it. This fact may be appreciated best by our passing in review some of the obvious facts revealed by the archaeological maps already published.

The map of long barrows on sheet 8 of the $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch map shows that nearly all the long barrows in that area are on the Cotswolds, and that they are particularly thickly grouped in the well-watered districts round Avening and the Swells. It also shows the almost complete absence of stone circles on the Cotswolds. The facts suggest that stone circles may not belong to the same culture as the long barrows. Indeed there is evidence that most of the English stone circles belong to the Bronze Age, and in this connexion it is interesting to note that Bronze Age remains generally are very scarce on the Cotswolds.

The map of Neolithic Wessex brings out the fact that nearly all the long barrows in that area are on the chalk downs (hence the importance of the geological map to the archaeologist). Long barrows are thickly grouped on the downs west of Weymouth and Dorchester, the downs between Blandford and Salisbury, the plains of Stonehenge, and the Marlborough Downs. Elsewhere they are somewhat sparsely distributed. The map also emphasizes the almost total absence of Neolithic remains in the New Forest and other heathy areas, and here again it illustrates the importance of the geological factor. Why was the New Forest not inhabited to any extent, if at all, in the Neolithic period? Doubtless it was partly on account of the scarcity of native flint and other stone suitable for making implements. By the Middle Bronze Age flint was not so necessary for existence, and so the New Forest became peopled by a race or races who built the large round barrows which are to be seen in considerable numbers on the heaths near Beaulieu. Some of these barrows belong to the transition between the Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age.

The present writer has spent a good deal of time in mapping the distribution of barrows of bell and disc types. It is already quite clear that both types are thickly clustered over greater Wessex and are rather scarce elsewhere. They evidently form part of a wonderful Bronze Age civilization which was concentrated in greater Wessex, especially near Stonehenge and Avebury.

A study of the distribution of Roman barrows in England shows that they are concentrated in East Anglia. Most of the Saxon grave-mounds are (or were) in Kent, but many have been destroyed.

Thus it is evident that by preparing maps of the distribution of barrows of different types and periods, a great deal of light can be thrown on the distribution of the people who made them. When the distributions of barrows of different kinds coincide (as with those of bell and disc types) the two types may well be the work of one people, especially if that inference is supported by evidence from excavations. But many sites have been occupied through almost all periods—another fact revealed by the study of distributions.

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- Specially recommended.

CHAPTER VI

PRACTICAL HINTS ON FIELDWORK, SURVEY, AERIAL OBSERVATION, AND PHOTOGRAPHY

It was always a source of deep regret to me to observe the hasty step with which archaeological tourists passed over the country, as though their great object was to see as many monuments as possible in one day, and not to study and learn. To this reprehensible precipitancy may be attributed the sadly defective knowledge which is conspicuous in many professing antiquaries. . . .

W. C. Lukis, *The Chambered Barrows of South Brittany*

IN the foregoing chapters the reader has been introduced to the barrows of the different types and periods, the study of burial customs, the folk-lore of ancient sites, the local names of barrows, and the fascination of maps both general and archaeological.

The reader may now desire to do some exploring in the country, and this chapter is intended to be of help in indicating where to look and what to look for in the field.

OUTFIT

In the first place the prospective barrow-hunter should make up his mind to go 'hiking'. Incidentally, barrow-hunting is strongly recommended as an out-door hobby for hikers, and the writer knows several who have already taken it up. The walker should set out armed with a reel-tape, preferably 66 or 100 feet long, with which he will be able to measure the earthworks he finds. He should also carry a folding yard-rule, which is convenient for estimating the height of barrows. If careful surveys are contemplated a compass and some wooden pegs will also be necessary. Garden-pegs do excellently.

The Popular Edition of the 1-inch Ordnance Survey map covering the region visited is most important, and if serious

LONG BARROW

COUNTY : SUSSEX.

SITUATION: On Front Hill, northwest of Alfriston.

6-inch O.S. Map 68 SW.
1-inch O.S. Popular Edn.
Sheet No. 184, F.9.

SEASON: Chalk.

PATRISH : Allerton.

TYPE: Earthen, with ditches along sides but not round the ends.

DIMENSIONS—*Length* : 55 yards.

Breadth : 22 yards at widest part.

Height : 8 feet at highest part.

Width and Depth of Ditch: 5 yards wide and 1½ feet deep.

ORIENTATION: NE., by SW., with larger end at NE.

LOCAL NAME: The Long Burgh.

OTHER DETAILS.—Literature: *Sussex Archaeological Collections*,
vol. 75, p. 220.

A Form for Recording Details of a Long Barrow

13

ROUND BARROW

COUNTY : Wiltshire.

SITUATION : On Overton Hill.

Covered with trees.

6-inch O.S. Map 28 SW.
1-inch O.S. Popular Edn.
Sheet No. 112, D.6.

PERSON: Chalk.

PARISH : Avebury.

TYPE: Bell, with perhaps a very vague suggestion of outer bank.

DIMENSIONS—*Diam. of Mound: 84 feet.*

Height of Mound: 12 feet.

Width of Berm : 27 feet. (On same level as surrounding ground.)

Width of Ditch : 15 feet.

Depth of Ditch : 2 feet.

LOCAL NAME: Apparently none.

OTHER DETAILS.—Literature: *Proc. Prehistoric Soc. E. Anglia*, vol. 7, part 2, p. 217 and fig. 5. A very impressive mound, beautifully formed. One of the largest and finest barrows in Wiltshire.

A Form for Recording Details of a Round Burrow

work is being done, in the way of searching for unrecorded sites which are not marked on the maps, it is strongly advisable to have the 6-inch O.S. map of the area being worked. Each 6-inch quarter-sheet covers 6 square miles and it takes a long time to work over the area covered by a quarter-sheet thoroughly. A camera should also be carried. A convenient size is the No. 2 Brownie. It is best to have a folding camera of this size with a good lens and a cable-release. Between autumn and spring a folding camera-tripod should also be carried. It is hardly necessary to add that a notebook and pencil or fountain pen are essential for noting and describing the sites visited. These notes should be taken on the spot, as fully as possible.

A very convenient method of collecting details of the sites visited is to carry a number of blank forms resembling the filled-in specimens shown in Forms A and B.¹ The advantage of these forms is that, by providing headings, they make it impossible for any important points to be forgotten. Otherwise the enthusiast may forget to note, say, whether the barrow had a surrounding ditch, or how high the mound was.

WHEN AND WHERE TO SEARCH

The best times of the year to see ancient earthworks are in the winter and early spring when the grass is short. During the summer months the long grass, bracken, and other vegetation tend to obscure some of the smaller sites. But most of the larger barrows are suitable for seeing at any time of the year. It is by no means waste of time to see the same sites under different soil conditions and at different seasons. A circle of wild flowers surrounding barrows in the Lake group near Stonehenge betrayed the fact that the barrows were surrounded by a ditch (in which the weeds were growing), but as the barrows had been ploughed this ditch was not otherwise visible. The barrows were of the bell form, as the surrounding circles of flowers were placed several feet away from the mound. Frequently the vegetation in the surround-

¹ It is strongly advisable to record the *exact* position of each barrow by giving latitude and longitude, or by using the grid printed on the new Fifth Edition 1-inch O.S. maps.

ing ditch is different from that on the mound, and at certain seasons the resulting colour-contrast renders the barrow especially suitable for photography. Earthworks are seen to best advantage on clear days shortly after sunrise and before sunset when the features of the mound and ditch are thrown into relief by the shadows cast by the sun.

Barrows are easy to find on the open chalk downs of Salisbury Plain, Dorset, Berkshire, and Sussex, and in these regions it is often sufficient to carry a 1-inch O.S. map; but in wooded regions a 6-inch O.S. map is strongly recommended, as it gives a more exact location of the barrow. In nearly all districts it is well to keep on high ground, because nearly all the tumuli are placed on the tops or higher slopes of hills. Frequently a previously unknown barrow may be found by a walker who is going along a hilltop on his way to a known site.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

The average barrow is a grass-covered mound, between 10 and 30 yards in diameter and between 1 and 10 feet high. Most of the mounds, especially the round ones, have a little dimple or crater on the top. This generally indicates that the mound has been opened from the top—a very common method of digging into barrows during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. This crater is most frequently circular, but sometimes it is shaped like a cross. This almost invariably indicates that, at some time or other, the mound has been used as a windmill-stand. The central cross is simply the impression of the cross-beams at the base of the windmill. Occasionally, however, this cruciform hollow indicates that the barrow has been opened by driving trenches at right angles into the mound.

A very large circular and flat central depression in a barrow may indicate that the barrow has served as a stand for a windmill with no cross-beams at the base, or it may denote that the mound has had the top removed or truncated. This happens sometimes with cairns. It is often very difficult to distinguish these flat depressions from the flat tops that characterize platform-barrows. The best time to inspect such sites is in the winter when the grass is short. Truncated tops tend to have a broken-up appearance, whereas the tops of platform-

barrows tend to be smoother. Truncated barrows usually have a slight rim round the depressed area.

Most barrows were originally surrounded by a ditch, but this ditch has frequently become obliterated by the plough. When the ditch is still visible it is generally softer to the tread, and is covered by greener grass than the surrounding ground. Sometimes even when no true ditch is otherwise visible it may be detected by the greenness of the grass where the ditch should be, and it is often possible for an experienced field-worker to detect the presence of a ditch by the feel of the ground beneath the feet. Occasionally a barrow ditch is marked by nothing more than a circle of weeds or wild flowers surrounding the mound. In elaborate surveys the presence or absence of ditches is sometimes determined by means of knocking the ground with a heavy weight known as a rammer, but this method is not always practicable for a field-worker engaged on a broad survey of a large number of barrows, unless he travels about in a car. Rammers are much too heavy for the hiker to carry. A rammer should, however, be used when making a careful survey of a barrow, the ditch of which has become obliterated.

Long barrows on the chalk downs normally have ditches along the flank-sides but not round the ends, but there are exceptions. Long barrows in the Cotswolds and other stony areas seldom if ever have visible ditches, and it is possible that they never existed. Most round barrows of all types and periods (except perhaps those of the earliest Bronze Age) originally had surrounding ditches. Some bell- and disc-barrows appear to have had two concentric ditches—one between the mound and the platform or berm, the other outside the berm. It is important to note whether the ditch of a round barrow is continuous or interrupted. Sometimes the ditch is interrupted at one or more points by a kind of causeway. This interruption may date from when the barrow was made, but it is frequently due to subsequent tampering with the mound, and particularly to digging into the mound and throwing the earth into the ditch—an early but clumsy method of excavating.

Disc- and bell-barrows have a shelf or berm between the

mound and the ditch. The berms of bell-barrows tend to be narrower than those of disc-barrows. The berms of disc-barrows are nearly always flat. Those of bell-barrows may be flat or else they may slope from the mound towards the ditch. Sloping berms are of course due to the overspreading of the material of the mound.

It is important to note whether a ditched barrow has a slight bank outside the ditch. This feature is present rarely in bowls, sometimes in bells, and always in disc-barrows. Very occasionally there is an *inner* bank between the ditch and the mound. This inner bank may be due to an afforestation-bank having been erected round the mound within the last 150 years, or alternatively it may be original. Some alleged Roman barrows have this feature, notably a supposed Roman barrow near Badbury Rings, Dorset.

Examples on heathlands and in stony country such as the Yorkshire Moors and the Cotswolds seldom have visible ditches. Barrows in stony regions frequently contain stonework. Some of the round barrows on Dartmoor and the Cleveland Hills and elsewhere are set round with a circle of stones at their base. In the Cotswolds and north Wiltshire the long barrows normally contain chambers of stone, described in Chapter I of this work. Most of the Dartmoor round barrows contain stone cists or kistvaens, many of which are exposed.

Enough has been written to show that there are many features to look for in visiting tumuli. The notes given above are far from being exhaustive: they indicate only the chief points to observe. Other relevant hints will be dropped as occasion arises in the chapters in Part II of this work.

It goes without saying that an archaeological Rambler should make every effort to find out the folk-lore of the ancient sites he visits. A fruitless day of visiting barrow-sites which have been destroyed or are under plough may frequently be compensated for by one or two interesting legends about ancient monuments heard at the village inn, or from the lips of a local farmer or ploughboy. I well remember such a fruitless day on the Yorkshire Wolds, examining levelled barrow-sites, being amply rewarded subsequently by the hearing of a particularly interesting custom

practised on Shrove Tuesday at a barrow in the vicinity of Wold Newton—information supplied by the keeper of the village general stores. Even the hearing of an unrecorded local name of a tumulus is well worth a day's ramble.

HOW TO DISTINGUISH BARROWS FROM OTHER MOUNDS

The following are among the more important sites that can be confused with barrows:—

(1) *Afforestation Circles*.—These consist of a circular, or sometimes oval or rectangular ring of earth *outside* of which is a ditch. Note that the ditch is always outside the bank—the reverse of the arrangement in disc-barrows. The ditch and bank tend to be steeper and narrower than those of a disc-barrow or other prehistoric earthwork. About 1800 it was customary for newly-planted groups of trees to be enclosed by these afforestation banks, on top of which a fence was placed. For that reason such entrenchments or ring-works nearly always enclose trees—frequently pines or firs.

(2) *Castle-Mounds*.—These tend to be much larger, steeper and more conical than barrows, and normally have a flat top. They are mostly Norman.

(3) *Circuses and Moots*.—Some of these may have been converted from pre-existing barrows. They differ from normal barrows in having a much larger hollow in the centre, big enough for a very small amphitheatre or arena, surrounding which is an earthen rim. *Circuses* generally have Roman or Celtic roads leading into them, and are often oval. *Moots* are generally circular.

(4) *Hut Circles*.—Very few hut circles are known on the chalk downs, but they are very common on Dartmoor. They consist of a circular ring of stones between 8 and 12 yards in diameter. Whereas barrows are nearly always on hilltops, the hut circles on Dartmoor are generally placed on hillslopes or in valleys.

(5) *Boundary-Mounds*.—It has sometimes been known for a circular mound to be thrown up in order to mark a boundary between two parishes or two estates. Such mounds tend to be smaller, steeper and less circular than barrows, but it is not always possible to distinguish between them. Sussex

and several other counties offer some examples of barrows used to serve as boundary-mounds.

(6) *Windmill-Steads*.—These commonly resemble a very mutilated round barrow with a very large central cavity. Whereas barrow-cavities tend to be circular, windmill-stead cavities are frequently cruciform. Barrows have often served as windmill-steads.

(7) *Fungus-rings*.—These are the so-called 'fairy-rings'. They are caused by the growing of a fungus in a circular or oval pattern on the grass. They consist of a ring of different-coloured grass from that growing in the immediate vicinity. Two good examples may be seen in the air-photograph of part of the Normanton group (plate XI).

SURVEYING

The present writer is by no means a practised surveyor. His methods are inclined to be rather rough-and-ready when compared with the exceedingly accurate methods followed by Alexander Keiller and others at the present time in surveying earthworks.

I have found the following methods very useful for rough surveys of barrows, undertaken for lists of the barrows in each county. When measurements of perhaps a thousand barrows have to be obtained, it is clear that meticulously accurate surveys would take too long. Moreover, I think the methods I use bring out the most important details.

If a barrow is not higher than 3 or 4 feet, and has a diameter of 15 yards or more, a rough estimate of the diameter of the mound may be obtained by pacing across it. This may be checked, if time permits, by walking round the circumference and dividing it by $\frac{22}{7}$, which gives the diameter. Measurements thus determined should of course in a published report be given in paces and not yards. They are suitable only for rough surveys of a very large number of mounds, when time does not permit more accurate work. At the same time such surveys, by an experienced barrow-pacer, can be extraordinarily accurate. If I may say so, I have myself paced across many barrows and checked my measurement by a reel tape, and found it correct to a foot or two for a mound between 30 and 40 yards in diameter. Care must be taken

to note whether the diameter taken is of the mound or of both mound and ditch.

In pacing over barrows the height of which is 4 feet or more, it is well to make allowance for this height by deducting a few feet from the measurement obtained by pacing.

Heights may generally be estimated with fair accuracy by judgement; but care must be taken not to *over-estimate* the height, as was so frequently done in the past.

If time permits, barrows should always be measured by a reel-tape; a length of 66 feet or 100 feet is most suitable. Reel-tapes may be obtained from most hardware stores, prices from 5s. upwards. Round barrows should be measured in two directions, one at right-angles to the other. Such measurements show whether the barrow is exactly circular. Elliptical and oval barrows are found occasionally.

Surveys more accurate still may be obtained by taking a point in or near the centre of the barrow, and placing wooden pegs at different places along the circumference of the mound, ditch and berm, and outer bank if any. Distances are then measured between the centre and the circumference of mound, ditch and berm and outer bank if present. This method requires two people, but is very satisfactory. It takes quite an hour to do a careful survey by this method if the barrow is large (say over 25 yards in diameter). It is best to take at least eight or ten points along the circumference of the outermost part of the barrow and to get measurements from the centre to these. Large bell- and disc-barrows need 20 or more such points in the circumference. Heights may be measured by holding a rod of known length vertically in front of the mound and getting a friend to judge the height of the mound from its proportion to the height of the rod. Another method is to extend the reel-tape from the top of the mound to the circumference, and draw it parallel with the natural ground-level. A measurement is then made, at the circumference, between the tape and the ground, this being the same as the height of the barrow. All these and similar methods are very simple and would occur to any one with common sense.

Groups of barrows may be planned by placing a peg roughly in the centre of each barrow and measuring the distances

between the pegs. A little rough surveying of each barrow enables the barrows to be sketched in after their relative positions have been obtained. This method is applicable to clusters of small grave-mounds such as were erected in Early Iron Age and Saxon times; but the method could hardly be applied to groups of large Bronze Age barrows on account of their great size and the comparatively long distances between them. Bronze Age barrow-groups have mostly been planned accurately on the 6-inch and 25-inch O.S. maps, but this is not so with the Early Iron Age and Saxon grave-mound clusters, the mounds being too small to show separately on the maps.

Many barrows on Dartmoor, Bodmin Moor, and elsewhere, contain visible kistvaens or stone cists and are surrounded by a 'retaining wall' of large stones. These stones should of course be shown on plans, and the cists should always be measured. The length, thickness and depth (so far as can be judged) of each stone forming a cist should be measured by tape. An ordinary 5-feet tape-measure as used by many housewives will do for this, as the cists are seldom more than 4 or 5 feet long. Long barrows in the Cotswolds, the north Wiltshire downs and elsewhere usually contain stone structures such as passages and chambers. These should always be measured, the dimensions of each stone being obtained where possible. The accurate planning of chambered long barrows is a very big task, although a rough plan showing the main features can be done in about half an hour.

The orientation or compass-bearing of all long barrows and exposed stone cists should be determined. This can be done roughly with the aid of a large-scale map and a cheap compass; but for more accurate purposes it is usual to allow for magnetic variation, the exact figure of which for a given place at a given time may be obtained from the Ordnance Survey Office at Southampton.

It is well to consider a few of the facts which are likely to be revealed by surveys of the kind described. In the first place the influence of weathering in altering the shape of a mound is brought out. A barrow on a hillslope tends to have the surrounding ditch overspread on the lower slope by the mound. Many barrows on hillslopes are oval, the shape being due to the earth gradually working its way

downwards. Surveys of apparently circular disc-barrows with two central mounds sometimes reveal the fact that the disc-barrows are oval, and were obviously originally constructed as twin burial-places. Yet other twin disc-barrows are circular, with one mound in the centre and the other one placed elsewhere on the central platform.

A study of the orientation of long barrows shows a tendency for them to be placed with their long axis east and west, the higher and broader end being at the east. Most of the Dartmoor stone cists are placed with their long axis north-west to south-east.

AERIAL OBSERVATION

Aerial observation in archaeology can be useful in two ways—by revealing a fresh view of known sites, and by discovering sites previously unknown.

An aerial view of a known site is frequently useful in confirming or modifying conclusions arrived at from a ground inspection of the site. For example, in parts of southern England, notably Berkshire, some barrows had afforestation circles placed round them about 1800 or 1820. These circles consist of a narrow bank placed on the inner lip of a ditch. Sometimes the original barrow-ditch was partly re-dug and the earth obtained placed along the edge of the mound. This has occurred with one or two barrows in the Lambourn group (see plate XVII). The very narrow circles round two barrows in the centre of this photo are the remains of these afforestation circles. On the ground they are visible to a very experienced field-worker, but would be missed by nearly every one. This is where an air-photo comes in extremely useful, in confirming suspicions formed by a ground-inspection of a site.

The chief use of air observation is however in revealing previously unknown sites. Some earthworks are perfectly obvious to anyone who happens to walk near them, but if an archaeologist never walks that way they continue to be archaeologically unknown, if they are not marked on any maps, as frequently happens. Such sites are easily revealed by air observation and photography.

Most of the unknown sites discovered by this method have however been situated in ploughed fields. It happens that

when certain crops are growing in ploughed fields, in which barrows or other earthworks are situated, the crops grow more thickly in the ditch of the earthworks, where the soil is richer. This has the effect of making the earthworks very clearly visible from the air, even when little or nothing can be seen from the ground. According to Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, one of the pioneers of air-photography of ancient sites,

so far as we know at present, corn (especially wheat and oats), weeds, horse-beans, and parched grass are all good agents. In conjunction with the sun, they act upon the soil in the same kind of way as a chemical developer acts upon an exposed photographic plate. In both cases there is a latent image; in the one it is a picture, in the other a plan.¹

It remains to add that at the Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, is a collection of over 10,000 air-photographs, many of which contain ancient sites. A large portion of the collection is devoted to Hampshire and Wiltshire. The vertical air-photos reproduced in this book are from this collection; the oblique ones were taken by a private pilot, Major G. W. G. Allen, M.C., to whom I am greatly indebted.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Barrows are notoriously difficult to photograph on account of the lack of colour-contrast between the barrow and the surrounding ground. If the monument to be photographed is a fairly high barrow of bowl or bell shape, a good photo can generally be taken by getting the barrow on the skyline, but it is not always possible to do this. The best times of the day for barrow-photography are just after sunrise and just before sunset; the best times of the year are between spring and autumn.

By taking barrows at sunrise or sunset, light and shade are distributed to best advantage. This fact applies specially to disc- and ring-barrows, which are almost impossible to take successfully at mid-day on account of lack of shadow, except on very clear days in the winter, when the sun casts more shadow. Ground-photos of disc-barrows are seldom successful: air-photos are seldom failures. Most disc-bar-

¹ *Air-Photography for Archaeologists*, 1929, p. 5.



AIR-PHOTOGRAPH OF PLOUGHED BARROWS NEAR HEATH FARM,
ROYSTON, HERTS



PLOUGHED BARROWS NEAR PIMPEINE, DORSET

Although the barrows in the lower photograph are clearly seen from the air
they are not visible on the ground



rows photograph extremely well from the air, especially when the sun is low.

When photographing bowl-and-bell-barrows, it is convenient to stand between 20 and 40 yards away from the object, and focus accordingly. An exposure of $\frac{1}{125}$ th of a second with full aperture is about right for an average day between May and September, between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., with an ordinary, verichrome, or panchromatic film. The extra cost of panchromatic films for photographing all barrows under all conditions is generally a good investment, the photographs being nearly always better than they would otherwise be.

Long barrows, when placed roughly east and west with the higher end at the east, should whenever possible be photographed from the south: the view obtained will then show the higher end of the barrow at the east.

Megalithic structures, including burial-chambers, stone cists, and stone circles, generally photograph very successfully. It is generally convenient to take stone cists (as on Dartmoor) at a distance of not more than a few feet. Care must be taken, therefore, not to forget to alter the focus (a mistake that is very easy to make and which the writer occasionally commits). Mr. R. Hansford Worth's photographs (and still more his drawings) of Dartmoor stone cists published in the *Proceedings* of the Devon Association, are works of art.

Air-photography of archaeological sites can be done only by the privileged few, and they will probably need no instruction from the author. It is sufficient to say that panchromatic film is essential, and the camera used must be capable of taking exposures of $\frac{1}{100}$ th or $\frac{1}{125}$ th of a second. A height of between 400 and 800 feet is probably most suitable for barrows. The 'pistol' variety of camera, specially designed for air-photography, is very suitable for archaeological work.

Oblique photographs are beautiful and useful in revealing sites both known and unknown. But for scientific work vertical photos are preferred, from which it is possible to plot newly discovered sites accurately on the map. A high-winged monoplane is the most suitable machine for air-photography.

LITERATURE:

Curwen, E. C.: *Prehistoric Sussex*, 1929, chapter 8.

Crawford, O. G. S.: *Air-Photography for Archaeologists*, 1929.

CHAPTER VII

THOUGHTS ON EXCAVATION

. . . But of these and the like hills there can be no clear and assured decision without an ocular exploration, and subterraneous inquiry by cutting through one of them either directly or cross-wise,—SIR THOMAS BROWNE, on *Artificial Hills, Mounts or Burrows*, before 1682.

“Uprouse ye then, my barrow-digging men,
It is our opening day.”
Barrow-Digging, by a Barrow-Knight, 1845

This chapter may well begin with a brief review of the methods of the early excavators.

Among the first to excavate barrows with an antiquarian object was Dr. Stukeley. Stukeley was no fool. One of his objects in opening barrows was to find out ‘how the body was posited’. Sometimes he noted the composition and stratification of the mound. A typical example of his work is shown in his account of the opening of a twin-barrow south of the Cursus, near Stonehenge:—

About three feet below the surface was a layer of flints, lining the convexity of the barrow. . . . This being about one foot thick, rested on a layer of soft mould another foot, in which was enclosed an urn full of bones. . . . The bones had been burned. . . . This person was a heroin, for we found the head of her javelin in brass.

As a pioneer, Stukeley was not aware that the primary burial in barrows is nearly always on or below the original ground-level and near the centre of the mound. Consequently he sometimes thought he had found the original burial when he had only found a secondary burial of much later date.

Writing in 1810, Colt Hoare said: ‘I shall have frequent occasion to observe in how imperfect a manner the operations

of Dr. Stukeley were conducted.' Hoare, having learned from the mistakes of Stukeley, established the position of the primary burials on or below the original ground level.

An incident that occurred during Faussett's excavations at a sandpit at Gilton, Kent, in 1759, illustrates the clumsiness of the early methods :

. . . At the next stroke or two, part of a skull and a few vertebrae of the neck (all much decayed) were indiscriminately with the soil cast down into the pit, without the least care or search after anything. That concern, they said, they left to me and my servant at the bottom, who were nearly blinded with the sand falling on us, and in no small danger of being knocked on the head, if not absolutely buried, by the too zealous impetuosity of my honest labourers.

Further light is thrown on the clumsy methods of the early excavators by the following quotation from volume 16 (page 354) of the *Archaeologia* :

having ordered a hole to be opened in the middle (of the barrow), . . . we came to the sand, the natural soil of the whole heath . . . without finding anything ; but on shoving down the sides to fill up a cavity, . . . a curious Urn was discovered, which was cut through the middle by the spade.

In fact the reports of the early excavators are too frequently accounts of the sending of a gang of workmen to dig into a few barrows for the ' amusement ' of curious antiquaries who did not consider it necessary for the work to be supervised. They seldom thought of putting in an appearance until the burials were reached, and the grave-goods broken. They generally arrived just in time to pronounce the metal objects (wrongly) as brazen spear-heads, and the urns (also wrongly) as of sun-baked clay.

The methods of Faussett, Douglas, Hoare, and others were generally successful in finding the primary burials, and the excavators were sometimes careful to note the method of interment and the grave-goods associated ; but they frequently neglected to note the construction and stratification of the mound.

Chambered barrows, or those containing stone vaults or chambers and passages, require special treatment in excavating. That they have not always received this care is illus-

trated by the opening of a chambered round harrow near St. Guenolé, Finisterre, in 1862,

by persons altogether unacquainted with these structures. . . . The explorers commenced their blundering operations by digging down from the apex of the mound, by which they broke through and utterly destroyed the arched roofs. When I saw it, in 1864, it was a complete ruin.¹

To multiply these examples of careless excavation would be as superfluous as it is tedious. Let us conclude by recalling the opening of a certain barrow on the Yorkshire Wolds. The explorers found an urn, which they broke into pieces, each explorer being given a fragment as a memento of the excavation.

In the second half of last century, the foundations of a new age of excavation were laid very soundly by Pitt-Rivers in general archaeology, and by Greenwell and Mortimer in barrow-digging. It was Pitt-Rivers who first made contoured plans of ancient British earthworks. His example has been followed by his assistant Mr. H. St. George Gray, and also by Mr. Alexander Keiller. Pitt-Rivers was also among the first to make models of the sites he excavated. At the Pitt-Rivers Museum, Farnham, Dorset, may be seen his models of his excavations in War Barrow and other barrows on Cranborne Chase, and a few barrows elsewhere (e.g., the Black Burgh, north-west of Brighton, Sussex). These models show the areas excavated, and the exact positions of the different objects found.

Canon William Greenwell and J. R. Mortimer improved the methods of barrow excavation largely by the minute detail of their descriptions, and their practice of illustrating the most important objects found in each mound. Greenwell's work, *British Barrowes*, contains a valuable analysis of the human skulls by Prof. Rolleston. Mortimer's book, *Forty Years' Researches*, contains a large number of plans of barrows opened, as well as sketch maps of the various barrow groups.

Since Pitt-Rivers's time the chief advance in excavation has perhaps been in the better facilities for obtaining experts'

¹ W. C. Lukis, in *Journal of Brit. Archaeol. Assocn.*, vol. 22, p. 260.

reports on the finds, and this advance, of course, relates not so much to the actual excavation as to the work following the excavation. Human and animal remains, molluses (snail-shells, etc), flint implements, bronze and iron implements, charcoal, pottery, and several other things are each submitted to a separate expert for his opinion. Thus is archaeology the meeting-point of many sciences.

THE METHODS OF OPENING BARROWS

The present writer has done very little excavation, and is not well acquainted with the best methods in use to-day. Still, there are a number of points that have occurred to him, through reading of the mistakes of others, and through reading extensively the reports of excavations undertaken by others. He therefore ventures to offer the following remarks on a subject of which he is fully aware of the shortcomings of his own knowledge.

In the first place, the prospective excavator should have read up references to his site in all likely books and articles, paying particular attention to archaeological societies' proceedings, county and local histories, and other topographical works.

In the next place it is obvious that no excavation should be attempted until an extremely careful plan of the site has been made. It is also wise to make a model of the barrow to be dug. Neither the plan nor the model should be on too small a scale. A scale of an inch or more to the yard should be quite convenient. Plenty of time and thought should be spent on this preliminary survey, noting not only the broad features of the barrow, but also any minor points that occur, such as whether the ditch (if visible) is continuous or interrupted; whether the scars of former excavations are visible on the mound; whether there is any suggestion of a bank outside the ditch.

The actual method of excavation naturally depends on the scale on which it is to be done—whether the whole barrow is to be examined, or only a trench or two dug through it. This in its turn depends on the object of the excavation. The object is probably either to find the primary burial, or else to find out structural features. If the former, the barrow

must *all* be thoroughly excavated. If the latter, a trench or two may reveal the information required.

Let us deal with the former. For this purpose the whole barrow should be excavated thoroughly, and the utmost attention must be paid to every conceivable aspect of the dig. Every particle of information that the excavation is capable of yielding, in whatever sphere of archaeological knowledge, must be carefully noted. The exact position, both horizontally and (more important still) vertically, of every object found must be recorded. In order to do this, it is well to dig a small portion of the barrow at a time, marking the area excavated on the plan.

If any fragile articles, such as pottery, are found, they should be photographed immediately they are exposed. In Warne's *Celtic Tumuli of Dorset* we read of a very perfect urn the explorers found in a barrow, and just as they had exchanged congratulations on the perfection of the urn, and were planning how best to remove it, the urn crumbled to dust from the sudden exposure to the air, without any photograph, drawing or other record having been made. This shows the vital necessity of having a camera on the spot and ready for instant use.

An important part of the barrow is the ditch surrounding the mound. Pitt-Rivers demonstrated, by his experiments at Wor Barrow, that during the few years following the original digging of the ditch round a barrow, a considerable layer of quick-silting forms, and objects found in this quick-silting are probably contemporary with the barrow. They cannot be more than a few years later than the barrow if the quick-silting is undisturbed, unless the objects are of metal. Metal objects have a habit of working their way down, by their weight, into horizons below their true level. This fact should be carefully noted, for it explains why coins and other heavy objects have sometimes been found with the primary burial in a barrow of much earlier date than the coins and other objects in question.

The earth from the ditch round a barrow should be peeled off layer by layer. If there are no suitable natural strata to remove, the earth should be removed in layers of about 6 inches thick. The objects found in each layer should be

kept separate, and the exact position of each object in its own layer should be determined as carefully as possible. Great attention should be paid to the lowest layer, which is probably visible as a stratum. This lowest layer is composed of what is called quick-silting. Objects found in the quick-silting must have been placed there within a few years of the digging of the ditch, with the possible exception of certain metal objects for the reason already given. It is clear therefore that if any dateable objects are found in the quick-silting, they will date the barrow; hence the great importance of a careful excavation of the ditch.

When excavating the mound, a small section of which should be done at a time, the same method of peeling off the earth layer by layer should be followed. Great attention should be paid to noting the layers of soil composing the mound. The information thus obtained will probably be of great value when determining the method of construction of the barrow. If any large stones, whether sarsens, flints or other materials, are met with, the work should proceed extremely carefully, for the stones may cover an urn, or they may be part of a cist containing a burial. This remark applies just as much when digging in the body of the mound as when near the centre; for secondary burials may occur anywhere in the mound, though they are normally uncommon on the north side.

As each section of mound or ditch is exposed, horizontal and vertical plans of it should be made, on which the positions of the finds must be marked as accurately as possible.

Throughout his work the excavator's slogan should be 'the slower the work proceeds, the more accurately it is being done'. Like most slogans this is of course only a half-truth; but the great thing to avoid is working too hastily. This point is made clear by our considering three excavators at work. Two of them are removing earth with some speed; the third is much slower, but much more careful, and is consequently really doing work of greater value. But too frequently he gets an inferiority-complex because he is making slower progress, and in order to check this he starts increasing speed at the sacrifice of care. The excavator will therefore do well if he harbours the conviction that the most

accurate worker is frequently the slowest ; the most slapdash generally the quickest. Extreme care comes first and last.

All the finds (modern intrusions such as beer-bottles excepted) should be labelled with the greatest care and placed in suitable boxes. Flints should be carefully scrubbed in warm water. Pottery should be cleaned and treated much more gently in this process than the flints. Pottery (unless hard and wheel-made) should never be scrubbed. It is a good plan to clean the dirt off coarse gritty pottery with a pin or needle ; the process can be completed by the gentle application of a wet sponge.

In the event of the finding of human or animal remains, the earth should be very carefully removed from the bones by a penknife. On no account must the position of the bones be disturbed until they have been uncovered and photographed, preferably from at least two or three points of view.

Any charcoal or molluses found should be retained and sent to specialists for their examination. The same applies to any earth composing the barrow, if the earth appears to have been brought from a distance, by reason of its appearing different from the native soil of the district ; a sample of such earth should be retained and sent to a geological expert for his examination. The flint implements, pottery, metal and other objects must likewise be submitted to specialists for their reports.

Every effort should be made to ascertain, from local residents, particularly from old and native inhabitants, whether the barrow has a local name, and if so what the name denotes, and whether there are any traditions attached to the mound. Any local name discovered should be submitted to a Place-Name expert for his opinion as to its origin and meaning.

Lastly, no one, however keen and enthusiastic and conscientious, should ever attempt a barrow-dig without the aid of an experienced excavator : otherwise he may unintentionally do more harm than good, even if he carries out all the advice given in this chapter, which is by one who is a novice at excavation.

The writer knows of several barrow-excavations undertaken during the last few years which have not been done as carefully as they should have been. It is one of the objects

of this chapter to try and prevent the inexperienced though well-meaning enthusiast from undertaking these unfortunate excavations. The writer does not at present consider himself completely competent to conduct a barrow-excavation; he hopes that all those who have still less knowledge of the subject will leave the work for those better qualified.

WHICH BARROWS SHOULD BE OPENED ?

It is the author's opinion that excavation should be done as seldom as possible. He feels sure that too much is being done to-day. It should be done very sparingly. Most archaeologists would be very grateful to Stukeley, Hoare, Bateman, Warne, and others if they had opened fewer barrows with more accuracy. This is not to speak disparagingly of their work: they laid the foundations of the subject, and if we see farther than them it is because we stand on their shoulders. But it is *our* duty to be very sparing in our excavations, in order to leave as many sites as possible for the better-qualified archaeologist of the future.

It would surely be a good thing if no archaeologist attempted for the next century to open any barrows unless they are in danger or in process of destruction. Examples that are daily being levelled by the plough, examples on which building-sites are encroaching, or barrows which are for any other reason retarding the march of progress—these have the first claim on the excavator's energy; and until all these have been excavated with the utmost care, no work should be attempted on any barrows that are perfectly safe from destruction.

Truly, 'time, which antiquates antiquities, and hath an art to make dust of all things, hath yet spared these minor monuments'; but 'would it could be said that man had been equally considerate'!

Lastly, it is perhaps well to add a reference to the sentiment that is sometimes aired with regard to disturbing the graves of the dead. No human being whose intelligence approaches even half-wittedness could possibly object to his bones being dug up, some two thousand years after his death, for the benefit of scientific research. It is surely more dignified to have one's bones in a museum showcase than to have worms

and other creeping things crawling over them in mother earth. Anyway, Rev. J. C. Atkinson said that he had seen more disturbance of the dead in the 'restoration' of one church than had probably been done by all the barrow-excavators combined. Excavators of barrows nearly always exercise all due reverence for the dead.

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS ASPECTS

IN the foregoing chapters the more important aspects of barrow-study have been summarized. It remains to consider certain other aspects, some of which are of great interest.

1. THE CONSTRUCTION OF BARROWS

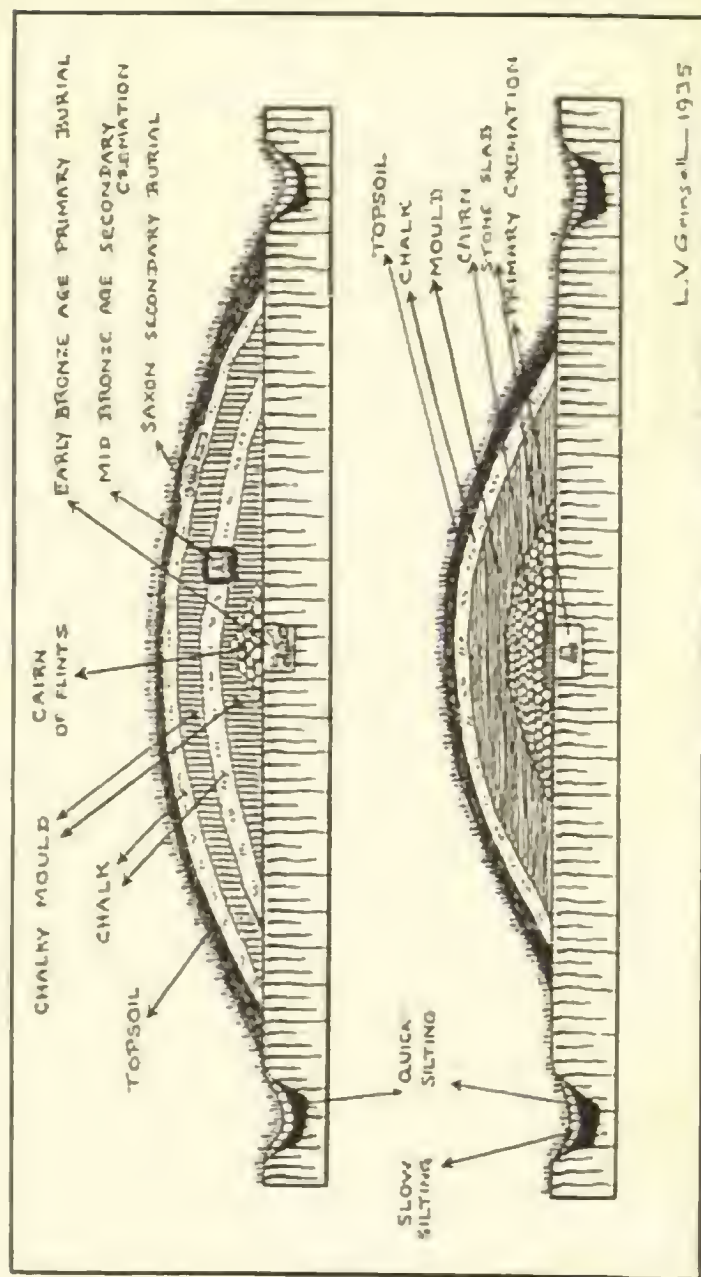
The subject of barrow-construction is a colossal one. Only a few aspects of it will be considered here.

(a) *Ditched Barrows*.—The earth or other material from the ditch around barrows was nearly always placed inside the barrow-circle to form part or all of the mound, except in a very few bowl- and bell-, and nearly all disc-barrows, when some or all of the material from the ditch was placed outside the ditch to form an outer bank. In some barrows the mound was probably composed entirely of earth from the ditch, but in a great many of them the material from the ditch was insufficient to form the mound. Some of the earth was therefore obtained from elsewhere.

(b) *Cairns in Barrows*.—In many districts one frequently finds the primary burial in a barrow covered by a cairn, composed of flints or other material. The purpose of this cairn may well have been to keep the spirit of deceased well in check, and by placing plenty of heavy stones on him to prevent him from returning to molest the living.

(c) *Turves in Barrows*.—Some of the examples in Dartmoor, Yorkshire, and elsewhere, were composed largely of sods of turf, cut from the neighbouring moors or downs.

(d) *Basketfuls of Earth*.—A fairly common custom was for the relations and friends of deceased each to carry a basket or other receptacle full of earth and place it in layers on the mound. This practice has been noted from Cleatham in Lincolnshire, various places on the Yorkshire Wolds, Michel-



3.—THE CONSTRUCTION OF BARROWS

L.V. Gainsall—1935

dever in Hampshire, and elsewhere. There are various references in Classical archaeology to the custom of soldiers bringing each a helmetful of earth to place on the barrow of a dead hero. Also there is a curious tradition relating to the formation of a natural hill which has the appearance of a barrow, near Dunfermline. 'According to an old story, this drift mound owes its origin to some unfortunate monks who, by way of penance, carried the sand in baskets from the seashore at Inverkeithing', thus forming the mound. Here we may possibly have a method of barrow-construction betrayed by a tradition, but of course the connexion is doubtful.

(e) *The Outer Crust*.—Some of the large bell-barrows, and perhaps some of those of bowl shape as well, were composed chiefly of earth with perhaps a central cairn, and after the main body of the mound had been thus formed, the ditch was dug, and the chalk rubble obtained therefrom was then sprinkled in a layer over the surface of the mound; after this chalk layer had been exposed to weathering for a short time it would form a crust on the mound.

(f) *The Original Turf-line*.—Sometimes, as at Fernworthy on Dartmoor, the original turf covering was removed over the area to be occupied by the barrow, the latter being erected on the subsoil. Most long barrows were erected on the original turf, and when a long barrow is excavated this turf-line may be seen as a horizontal band of black earth beneath the mound. But this stratum of black earth is sometimes so thick as to suggest that it is due not only to the original turf-line but also to some other cause, such as the heaping up of additional turves.

(g) *Retaining-Circles*, or circles of stones placed around the circumference of barrows, are quite common in Cornwall, on Dartmoor, the Yorkshire Moors, and in other stony regions. If the barrow is removed, the retaining-circle of stones is sometimes left, and the uninitiated think it is a stone circle. On Dartmoor, most of these retaining-circles have a stone cist in the centre.

(h) *Pavements*.—Certain barrows on Dartmoor, on the South Downs (notably on Bow Hill near Chichester) and elsewhere have been shown by excavation to cover a pave-

ment formed of flat stones. These pavements are sometimes in the nature of an extension of the capstone covering a burial.

2. CENOTAPH-BARROWS

It was said by Sir Thomas Browne that 'the variety of Monuments hath often obscured true graves; and Cenotaphs confounded Sepulchres. For beside their reall Tombs, many have found honourable and empty Sepulchres. . . . Euripedes had his Tomb in Africa, but his sepulture in Macedonia. And Severus found his real Sepulchre in Rome, but his empty grave in Gallia'. So it is with barrows. When a prehistoric chief was killed in battle, or drowned, and his body could not be recovered, what more natural than that a cenotaph-barrow should be erected in his memory? A number of barrows in many parts of the country have been shown to have probably never contained a primary burial. Among the most recently excavated examples of cenotaph-barrows is the smaller of the two long barrows on Thickethorn Down in north-east Dorset. This barrow was investigated with extreme thoroughness by Alex. Keiller and Stuart Piggott, and there is no doubt that a primary burial could never have been placed in the barrow. The skeleton could not have decayed; for the remains of bones of oxen, probably connected with the funeral feast, were found in a perfectly good state of preservation.

An unusual kind of cenotaph-barrow was erected in A.D. 673. Ebroin, Mayor of the Palace of Tours, 'wishing to have it believed that Bishop Léodegar, the head of the Opposition, was dead, seized and confined him in a secret place, spread a report that he was drowned, and raised a tumulus over his supposed grave, so that all who had ears to hear, or eyes to see . . . believed the report to be true'.

3. BARROWS MENTIONED IN THE SAXON LAND CHARTERS

In Saxon times a large number of land charters or perambulations of the boundaries of estates were drawn up, and these land charters contain numerous references to barrows and other earthworks which were used as landmarks

in the bounds of the estates. These charters were published by J. M. Kemble between 1839 and 1848, and he wrote a most important paper on references in the charters to heathen interments and barrows¹. In more recent times Dr. G. B. Grundy has written very valuable papers on the land charters of Wiltshire, Hampshire, Berkshire, Worcestershire, Oxfordshire, Dorset, and Somerset. The following notes are largely based on the work of Kemble and Grundy.

Kemble found over 150 references to barrows in the charters, and the numerous additions to the list, as the result of Dr. Grundy's work, would bring the total up to at least 250, and probably many more.

At least 43 charters mention 'heathen burial-place' in the singular or plural; the phrase may, however, have been used to denote pagan Saxon cemeteries, rather than prehistoric barrows. Barrows seldom, if ever, exist on sites called 'heathen burial-place' in Saxon charters. There is, however, near Beugeworth in Worcestershire, an instance of 'Haethene George' = Heathen Barrow.

The Saxon for a grave is byrgels, plural byrgelsas. Frequently byrgels is coupled with a personal name, perhaps the name of the person buried, or perhaps the name of the owner of the mound if the burial is marked by a barrow.

Kemble found 21 references to a personal name associated with beorh (plural beorgas), which is Saxon for a mound. The name generally denoted a burial-mound but may have been occasionally applied to natural hills. Kemble found about the same number of personal names attached to hlaew, plural hlaews, which is Saxon for a mound, and was likewise used generally for a barrow but perhaps occasionally for a natural hill. Personal names are nearly always associated with beorh and hlaew in the singular. When beorh or hlaew is in the plural, 'it may denote the barrows belonging to the person named, either as lying upon his estate, or as being the ancient resting-place of his family, seeing that a man could not occupy more than one himself' (Kemble). It is important to note that the personal name associated with hlaew or beorh, does not necessarily mean that the person named is buried in the barrow. Thus Oswald's barrow may mean

¹ *Archaeological Journal*, vol. 14, pp. 119-39.

either the burial-place of Oswald, or else the barrow situated on Oswald's land.

Let us now pass on to some interesting barrows mentioned in the charters. Most of these examples are taken from Dr. Grundy's valuable publications.

A Hampshire charter refers to the 'beorh thae adolfen waes' = 'the barrow that was opened', near Alresford. There are a considerable number of references in charters of Berkshire, Wiltshire and Hampshire, to Brokenan beorge = the broken or opened barrow. This may suggest that it was common to open barrows in Saxon times, and anyway it indicates that a large number of barrows had been opened by that time.

Very common also are references to Rūh or Rugan beorh = the rough barrow, perhaps used for barrows covered with gorse or other vegetation. The common place-name Roborough or Rowborough is frequently derived from rough barrow.

A distinction is sometimes drawn between Turf hlaew = the turf or earthen barrow, and Stan hlaew = the stone barrow or cairn. Other descriptive names are Greatun beorge = the great barrow (Wiltshire); Lytlan beorge (the little barrow) in several localities; Langebeorh = the long barrow (one such instance refers to the long barrow known as Knap Barrow near Damerham Knoll on the Hants-Dorset border). Grene Beorh is the green barrow (grass-covered). Kingberwes is Kingbarrow, an example of which is near Damerham Knoll. Gemot beorh (Hants) denotes the barrow where the meetings are held. Here we have an instance of a barrow being chosen as a place for the holding of assemblies etc. Gemaer and Maer Beorh denote the barrow on the boundary.

Barrows named from birds are not at all uncommon. A few examples will suffice: Fugel hlaew = the bird barrow (Broadway, Worcestershire); Laferean Beorh (Worcestershire) = Lark Barrow; Hafoces hlaew = Hawk's Barrow. The Wiltshire charters also mention Eagle's Barrow and Geese Barrow. One can only suggest that these names arose from the types of bird living at or near the barrows in question.

Berkshire charters mention Cwichelmes hlaew now known as Cuckhamsley, and an Oxfordshire charter mentions Cwichelmes hlaew near Ardley some miles north of Oxford.

The Berkshire Cuckhamsley is an example where the name has undergone little change since Saxon times. Other charter-barrows which can still be identified are Fox barrow near Churn (Berks), Wayland's Smithy in the same county, Bodelus Beorh corrupted to Bowls Barrow (Wiltshire), and Melan beorh corrupted to Millburrow, near Alresford, Hants. The Woden's Barrow of a Wiltshire charter has become transformed into Adam's Grave, a long barrow near the Wansdyke south of Marlborough.

On the Berkshire Downs south of Hardwell Camp was a most interesting barrow called in a Saxon charter 'Dinra Beorh' = Coin Barrow, probably either a barrow where coins had been found, or else a barrow which was supposed to contain a hoard of coins. Compare the various Money Barrows still existing (see chapters on Folk-lore and Local Names). Traditions are also betrayed in Euta hlaew = the Giant's barrow, and Sencean hlaew = the Devil's barrow.

Enough has been written to indicate the wealth of information the charters contain relating to ancient barrows. Surely no barrow-enthusiast can afford to neglect them.

In his brilliant paper on references to heathen interment in the Saxon Charters, Kemble says:—

'I have more than once walked, ridden, or rowed, as land and stream required, round the bounds of Anglo-Saxon estates, and have learnt with astonishment that the names recorded in my charter were those still used by the wood-cutter, or the shepherd, of the neighbourhood.'

4. CONTINUITY OF THE PLACE OF BURIAL

Those who have waded through the formidable masses of evidence quoted by W. Johnson (*Byways in British Archaeology*, Chapters 1 and 2) and A. H. Allcroft (*The Circle and the Cross*, 2 vols.) must surely be convinced that the prehistoric barrow was sometimes utilized not only for secondary burials of many later periods, but also as the site for the Christian church and churchyard. It is true that some of the examples of churches built on or near barrows cited by both these writers are spurious, but there is a residuum which can hardly be explained otherwise than on the assumption of the intentional adaptation of a pagan site for Christian worship and

burial. A church, now ruined, was built in the centre of one of the probably prehistoric circles at Knowlton in Dorset. As space does not warrant an enumeration of similar examples of this continuity, the reader is referred for further details to the two works cited above, especially that by the late A. H. Allcroft.

Addendum :

SAXON CHARTERS

Since this chapter was written Dr. Grundy has published (*Proc. Dorset Arch. Socy.*, vol. 56) some most interesting references to *stancyste* = stone clat, in a Saxon charter of Cheselborne.

PART II
SELECTED REGIONS

CHAPTER I

CORNWALL

A complete burial place may be described as a dolmen, covered by a tumulus, and surrounded by a stone circle. Often, however, we have only the tumulus, sometimes only the dolmen, and sometimes again only the stone circle.

LORD AVEBURY, *Prehistoric Times*, chap. 3

I. THE LAND'S END DISTRICT

MOST visitors to Cornwall, especially the Land's End district, have seen or heard of some of the rude stone monuments scattered over the remoter parts of the downs. These stone monuments have been variously called cromlechs, dolmens, quoits, menhirs, and stone circles. The word cromlech is often applied to stone circles, the suggested derivation being from *crom* (a circle) and *lech* (stone). In Cornwall, however, the word cromlech has been generally used to mean a stone burial-cist or chamber, the suggested derivation being from the Cornish *crom* (crooked or bent) and *lech* (stone). In other parts of England these stone burial-cists or chambers have been called dolmens (*daul* = table, and *maen* = stone). This use of cromlech to mean different things in different places is most confusing, and it would be good if the words cromlech and dolmen were banished from the vocabulary. In this chapter the word 'burial-chamber' will be used to describe the sites marked on the maps or described in books as cromlechs, and the words cromlech and dolmen will not be used at all. Menhir comes from the Cornish *maen* (a stone) and *hir* (long), and is always used to mean a long stone generally standing erect. The word Quoit, like cromlech, is used in Cornwall to denote a burial-chamber.

Let us now describe a few of the more impressive and interesting of the burial-chambers. It should first be noted that

they were all originally covered by a mound. They are therefore the burial-chambers or cists of former barrows. The best-known example in the Land's End area is the Lanyon Quoit. It is so well known that it may be described as a trippers' monument. It is situated by the side of a road along which buses pass; picture-postcards and models of it are in the shops at Penzance; almost every hotel and boarding-house in Penzance has a picture of it on the wall. The tripper comes, looks at the monument, gapes, and goes away apparently well satisfied, babbling about the Romans, and little knowing or caring that the monument (2000-1500 B.C.) is not in its original form. The capstone was originally high enough for a man on horseback to pass beneath it; it is now only about 5 feet high. It fell during a storm in 1815 or 1816, and the uprights must have been damaged on this occasion and shortened when the capstone was re-erected in 1824. In its present form the monument may be described as of the tripod type, the capstone resting on three slender supports. Originally there may have been other supports, and there may have been some stones filling in the gaps between them so as to form a wall enclosing a burial-chamber.¹ The shape of the covering mound has been claimed by Hencken to have been long, but I do not feel sure that this was so. Long barrows are very rare in Devon and Cornwall.

The other burial-chambers in the Land's End district are quite different from that at Lanyon. They are all rectangular, with one or more very large slabs of stone (generally granite) for each side. That at Chûn (of course pronounced Choone) has the capstone still in place. In the other two good examples, at Zennor and Mulfra, the capstone has partly fallen. A special feature of the Zennor example is the presence of a kind of antechamber on the eastern side. All these burial-chambers are well worth visiting. A dilapidated example, which was covered by a mound until the latter part of the eighteenth century, exists about half a mile west of the Lanyon Quoit. The date of these monuments has not been very accurately established, as none of the Cornish examples has been investigated with the care necessary to establish a

¹ It should be noted, however, that a grave was found extending to a depth of 6 feet below ground-level underneath Lanyon Quoit.



CHÉN QUOIT, WEST CORNWALL.



CHAMBERED ROUND BARROW (THE CHAPEL EUNY BARROW)
NEAR BRANLE, WEST CORNWALL.

maximum of facts. A most likely date for them is the Early Bronze Age.

A small example, not marked on the maps, is about 150 yards south of the stream between Porthmeor and Bosporthemnis (pronounced Bosprennis), and 300 yards west-north-west of the latter hamlet. It is a typical stone cist, and it created consternation in the antiquarian world about 1860 by reason of the circular capstone. To quote Copeland Borlase,

the fame of the discovery quickly spread, 'The Local Antiquarianism of the whole neighbourhood was awakened immediately, and servants of all shapes, sexes, and ages, 'visited and inspected' the stone. The sphere for conjecture was of course unlimited, and ranged from Arthur's round table, to the circular tombs of modern Bengal. . . . But . . . edging his way through the crowd which surrounded the monument, until he had reached the front rank, an old man was heard dispelling the fond illusion in the following cruel words: 'Now what are 'e all tellin' of? I do mind when Uncle Jan, he that was miller down to Porthmeor, cum' up 'long to the croft a speering round for a fitty ston of es mill. And when he had worked 'pon that there ston; says he: "I'll be jist gone to knack un a blt round like"; so he pitched to work; but 'e wouldn't serve 'es purpose, so there 'e es still. And, lor bless yer all, a fine passel o' pepple has been heere for to look 'pon un, but what they sees en un es more than I can tell 'e.'¹

A group of stones that may have formed part of a burial-chamber or cist is the celebrated Mên-an-tol, about a mile north of the Lanyon Quoit. The custom of passing children through the holed stone in the Mên-an-tol has already been related in the folk-lore chapter. As I was walking towards the monument in August 1935 I observed an elderly man on his evening stroll crawling through the holed stone. I feel sure he did it for luck.

Of great interest are a few chambered round barrows which bear a great resemblance to those of the Scilly Isles, from which they were almost certainly derived. Among the best-preserved examples are one of a group of three barrows among very thick gorse and bracken near the turf-track between the Gurnard's Head Hotel and Bosporthemnis; a more accessible one at Pennance near the track between

¹ *Naenia Cornubiae*, p. 68.

Kerrowe and Boskednan; and a very fine though tiny one known as the Chapel Euny barrow between Tredinney and Brane, two miles south of the road between Penzance and St. Just. Each of these three examples consists of a circular barrow between 8 and 10 yards diameter and between 5 and 8 feet high, surrounded by a retaining-wall of large granite slabs. A gap generally in the east of this retaining wall forms the entrance to the burial-chamber, which is between 6 and 10 feet long, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, and about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, in its present form. The burial-chamber is roofed with between 3 and 5 large granite slabs. The slab over the entrance is generally placed slightly lower than the others. The walls of the chamber are formed of slabs and boulders of granite, not as a rule very large. These are very neat and interesting little barrows, and those at Chapel Euny and Penmance are especially worth a visit. They probably belong to the Early Bronze Age.

Of the stone circles of west Cornwall, some appear to have been always free-standing and were probably religious rather than sepulchral. There is a good one south of Carn Kenidjack called the Nine Maidens; another of the same name, apparently overlapped by a round barrow, is near Boskednan and slightly east of the Mên-an-tol. Another fine example is the 'Merry Maidens' at Boscawen-un. (Let us make this place-name come to life: *has* = a dwelling; *seawen* = an elder-tree; *oon* = down; 'the dwelling by the elder-tree on the down'). An example about a mile south-east of Porthmeor may be sepulchral: the circle of stones is set in a ring-mound.

Space does not permit an account of the numerous round barrows of this region which have little or no stonework visible; neither does it permit a description of the interesting though irrelevant hill-forts (*Chûn* is a good one), fagons or caves (one of the best is at Brane), or ancient villages (*Chysauster* is the best known). For these the reader cannot do better than consult the literature at the end of this chapter, especially Hencken's book.

2. THE CHEESEWING AREA

On the south-eastern part of Bodmin Moor are situated a group of antiquities, the most famous of which are the three

stone circles known as the Hurlers, a number of cairns one of which yielded a famous gold cup, and the largest burial-chamber in Cornwall known as the Trethevy Stone (pronounced Tretheevy).

A suitable itinerary of these remains may be made by starting from the village of St. Cleer, in the stationers' shops of which may be obtained postcard-views of the local antiquities.

A road to the north-east from St. Cleer, past St. Cleer's Well, leads to a stream, after which the road continues as a quaint sunken track towards Trethevy Stone. Trethevy is, in the words of Norden, 'a litle howse rayseed of mightie stones, standing on a litle hill within a feilde'. The monument is in a fine state of preservation, though it has been denuded of nearly all the mound with which it was formerly covered. It consists of seven uprights, one of which has fallen, and a large coverstone. The coverstone is at present in a slanting position, partly due to the falling of one of the uprights. It is about 10 feet high. This capstone has in it 'an arteficiall holl, which served as it seemeth to putt out a staffe, whereof the house it selfe was not capable'. At the lower corner of the most massive of the uprights is a rectangular hole, called by Norden 'the dore or Entrance'. This hole seems to be natural but the stone may have been specially selected on account of the presence of this rectangular gap.

A road northwards from Trethevy Stone is continued over the western side of Caradon Hill (on which are some mutilated cairns) as a sunken track through a region of old tin-mines. On the hill to the west is an old Cornish cross. The sunken track from Trethevy meets a metalled road at Minions or the Cheesewring village, near the westernmost house of which is Minion's Mound, marked on the 6-inch O.S. maps as a tumulus, but it is really the filled-in shaft of a tin-mine. Behind the village are the celebrated Hurlers, so-called from a tradition that they were men turned into stones for playing the game of hurling (rather like football) on a Sunday. The Hurlers consist of three stone circles arranged nearly in a line; the southern circle is not so well preserved as the others. The central one is at the time of writing being excavated by Mr. Raleigh Radford. They doubtless belong

to the Bronze Age. In his *Memoirs* of 1675, Dr. Younge writes, referring to these circles, that 'they are now easily numbered but the people have a story that they never could till a man took many penny Loafes and laying one on each hurler did compute by the remⁿ what number they were'.

Between the Hurlers and the Cheesewring is the barrow in which the gold cup was found. It is a large round barrow about 30 yards in diameter and (as far as I remember) about 6 feet high. It has a very large oblong hollow in the centre. At the southern side is a stone cist, about 7 or 8 feet long, 3 feet high, and 4 feet wide (internal dimensions). In this cist the gold cup is said to have been found, enclosed in an earthenware vessel which was placed near the breast of an extended skeleton. A bronze implement (? spear-head or knife-dagger) and one or two minor articles were associated. Some boys living in the vicinity told the writer this barrow was called King Arthur's Grave. The gold cup is of a type similar to those in amber and shale from Farway near Honiton (Devon), Clandon near Dorchester, and Hove, Sussex. It may be dated between 1700 and 1400 B.C.

The story of the folk-lore of the gold cup has been told in the folk-lore chapter. It is sufficient here to recall that before the barrow was opened there was a tradition that a priest with an inexhaustible cup of gold dwelt near the Cheesewring. A golden boat is also said to have been found in this area. It is not surprising that all the cairns in the neighbourhood have now been rilled in the hope of finding treasure!

North of the barrow is the natural formation known as the Cheesewring, the topmost stone of which is said to turn round *when it hears* the cock crow! Another stone near-by is known as the Druid's chair—perhaps the chair of the priest who had the golden cup.

All the sites just described may be worked into a delightful afternoon's ramble, and those who have additional time to spare will find many other ancient remains in the neighbourhood.

CORNISH GLOSSARY:

Carn—a rock (natural).

Crom—crooked, or bent.

Lech—a flat stone.

Cramlerh—a burial-chamber surmounted by a slanting flat capstone.

Maen, Men—a stone.

Hir—long.

Menhir—a long stone, or monolith, generally standing upright.

Tol—a hole.

Mén-an-tol—A holed stone.

Quoit—a cromlech.

Ros—a heath.

Dan, or goon—a down (downs).

Crow—a hovel, or hut (e.g. the Giant's Crow, a chambered barrow at Penmance).

Cruc, creeg—a barrow.

Fougou or Fogou—a cave.

Scrive—to write.

Mén Scrifys—inscribed stone.

N.B.—Most Cornish place-names in three syllables have the middle syllable stressed: e.g., Bosked'un; Trethe'vy; Tredin'ney; Bojew'yun.

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*Specially recommended.

MAPS:

1-inch O.S. *Tourists' Map of the Land's End District*.

1-inch O.S. *Fifth (Relief) Edition*, Sheet 140 (Land's End).

1-inch O.S. *Fifth (Relief) Edition*, Sheet 136 or 144 (Cheesewring area).

2-inch O.S. Map of the Scilly Isles (Fifth Relief Edition).

6-inch O.S. Cornwall, 67 NE., SW., and SE., and 68 NW. (Land's End).

6-inch O.S. Cornwall, 28 NW. (Cheesewring area).

MUSEUM :

The Museum of the Penzance N.H. and Antiquarian Society contains good models of Chûn, Mulfra, Lanyon (both), Zennor, and Trethevy, burial-chambers, as well as models of the Mên-an-tol, Chûn Castle, Castle-an-Dinas, and the Bosawen-in stone circle. It also contains a number of urns from local barrows.

CHAPTER II

DARTMOOR

Barren, solitary, desolate as it is now, Dartmoor is rich in traces of former inhabitants. Scarcely a hillside but has its hut-circle ; . . . fragments of trackways frequently lost in the bogs, tracklines marking out divisions of aboriginal villages, are ever and anon encountered on steep slope or wind-swept plain, while barrows and cairns, crowning its hills, mark the resting-place of mighty ones long since passed away.—PAUL, *Exploration of Dartmoor*, chapter 3

It is proposed to devote the first part of this chapter to a general account of the sepulchral monuments of Dartmoor, and the second part to a more detailed description of the antiquities of Ugborough Moor in the south-east of that region.

The barren tract known as Dartmoor is about 20 miles from north to south and 15 from west to east, and apart from a few occupied areas mostly on the road between Princetown and Chagford, almost the sole occupants of the territory are the cairns, stone circles, stone cists or kistvaens, hut circles, and stone rows of a prehistoric age. Many of these vestiges are of very great interest, and the study of them is the work of a lifetime. In fact it has been the work of at least two lifetimes, those of R. Nigel Worth and R. Hansford Worth, father and son, of whose prolific writings the author has made use in compiling this chapter.

On the extreme western edge of Dartmoor is Brentor, crowned by a church concerning which is a tradition, which is not uncommon, that the original intention was to build it at the foot of the hill ; but the stones collected for the building were mysteriously removed from the bottom to the top of the hill, whereat the builders then decided that it must be the desire of Providence that the church be placed on the hilltop, where it was therefore ultimately erected.

A short distance south of Brentor is Tavistock, from which a metalled road runs eastwards across Dartmoor. The easiest way of exploring the moor is to take this road. The first important group of antiquities is reached at Merivale, where is a complex of stone rows, standing stones (or menhirs), cairns, hut circles, and a stone cist. This group is typical of a Dartmoor prehistoric site. It will be noticed that the hut circles look like ruined rings of stones. The Merivale stone avenues are particularly good examples; they consist of two roughly parallel straight avenues, each of which is composed of two parallel rows close together; so that there are four rows in all. The Dartmoor stone rows are generally terminated at one or both ends by a circle or cairn, and frequently at one end by a menhir. It appeared to R. N. Worth

that these stone rows are purely sepulchral; that the burial places with which they are connected are those of people in their day of position and authority, and that the length of the rows and the number of the stones indicate with more or less precision the number of . . . active mourners.

Slightly south of the southern avenue at Merivale, and north-east of a well-preserved stone circle, is a very fine large stone cist, one of the largest on Dartmoor. The internal dimensions are 3 feet wide, 3 feet high, and 6 feet long; the external dimensions are 4 feet 6 inches wide, and the same height; the roof, which is composed of three capstones, measures 10 feet in length.

The reader should note that the stone cists on Dartmoor are referred to in nearly all books and on nearly all maps as *kistvaens*, a term used by the early antiquaries. The Ordnance Survey are altering the term *kistvaen* to *cist* on the Fifth Relief and other new maps, and the writer has decided to use the word 'stone cist' for *kistvaen* in the present work. The word *kistvaen* is now archaic.

For the average person the most pleasant route from Merivale onwards is to miss the prison at Princetown by avoiding the turning to the south-east at Rendlestone (which by the way is probably the site of a prehistoric monument). Nearly two miles to the east of Rendlestone (or Rundlestone)



THE SPINSTERS' ROCK. DREWSTEIGTON



THE LAKEHEAD GREAT STONE, CIST, CIRCLE AND ROW,
DARTMOOR



is Two Bridges where is a hotel. In the vicinity of Royal Hill, about two miles to the south-east, are several good stone cists.

The road north-eastwards from Two Bridges leads to Lakehead Hill, where are some very fine stone cists, including one with an associated circle of stones (probably the retaining-circle of a cairn) and a fine stone row (see plate IX). This cist is among the finest on Dartmoor. It differs from that at Merivale in being above the ground level. North of it is a group of hut circles in an enclosure or pound. Not far away is Postbridge with its primitive Cyclopean Bridge which is probably of great antiquity.

Three miles north of Postbridge, as the crow flies, are the two well-known stone circles known as the Grey Wethers, north-east of which is the Fernworthy stone circle. A road from here eastwards leads to Metherall, where is a fine stone row, and thence northwards to Yardworthy and Chagford.

About two miles north of Chagford, and west of Drewsteignton, is the celebrated megalith known as the Spinsters' Rock, from the legend that it was set up by three spinsters one morning before breakfast. It is the only monument of its kind in Devon. It appears to be a burial-chamber akin to the various Quoits (such as Lanyon, Mulfra, and Trethevy) of Cornwall. There appear to have been at one time stone rows and circles near the Spinsters' Rock.

It remains to refer to certain other sites which are some distance from the road between Tavistock and Chagford.

About three miles south-east of Okehampton is the circle near Belstone known as the Nine Stones—maidens turned into stone for dancing on the Sabbath. They are the remains of the retaining-circle of a barrow which has otherwise been destroyed.

South of Chagford, between Shapley Common and Widecombe-in-the-Moor, is an important group of sites including the group of hut circles known as Grimspound, and some barrows with local names, including Broad Barrow, Single Barrow and Two Barrows.

Between Princetown and Yelverton, south of the main road, are some hut circles, cairns and stone rows, and on Yellowmead Down near Sheeps Tor is a very curious circle, consisting

in fact of four concentric circles, in the innermost of which was a barrow. Mr. R. Hansford Worth has written: 'taken as a whole the monument is unique on Dartmoor and is one which no student of moorland antiquities can afford to neglect'.

South-east of this monument is a track known as Abbot's Way, along which some eerie wish-hounds are said to gallop at nights.

UGHOROUGH MOOR

One of the most prolific barrow-districts on the moor is north-east of Ivybridge, which is a convenient starting-point for exploring. It is easily accessible by train or bus from Plymouth. A road past the paper mills east of the River Erme leads to the tiny village of Harford, from which there is a track leading north-eastwards on to the moor. The moor is reached at Harford Moor Gate, a few yards south of which are some hut circles on a hillslope overlooking Butter Brook. It may here be emphasized that, as a rule, hut circles on Dartmoor are on hillslopes, while barrows are on hilltops. Each of the Harford Moor Gate hut circles consists of a ring of earth and stones between 9 and 12 yards across. This is also the appearance of most if not all of the other Dartmoor hut circles.

A track northwards from Harford Moor Gate leads to a hut circle and a stone cist. The latter is surrounded by a circle of stones, only 6 yards in diameter, which is the retaining-circle of a barrow that has been removed thus exposing the stone cist, which is composed of one small and three large stones for the sides; the coverstone has gone. North-west of this cist is another group of hut circles. All these remains are on the western slope of Harford Moor.

A walk of about half a mile north-eastward brings the rambler on to the top of the moor, where there is a trackway. There is also the remains of a light railway here. Sharp Tor to the north is crowned by a cairn, and nearly a mile farther northwards are the Three Barrows, which can be seen on a clear day from a considerable distance. They are all cairns, and the largest, which is about 50 yards across and 8 feet high, is reputed to be among the largest barrows in

Devon. To the west of the Three Barrows, the barrow known as Hillson's House is visible, together with a fine stone row.

A walk southwards along the track east of Sharp Tor leads to Piles Hill, which is crowned with two barrows. It may be mentioned in passing that all the known Dartmoor barrows are circular. The northern of the two cairns on Piles Hill is normal. The southern example is of a rare type, consisting of a central mound, surrounded by a fairly level platform which is enclosed in an outer bank. South-east of Piles Hill is Glascombe Ball, crowned by a large cairn. Further south is the remains of Spurrell's Cross, near which are three cairns, west of which a very long stone row runs southwards towards Butterdon Hill, passing a large cratered cairn on its way. This stone row is very fine. The stones are placed at intervals of a yard or two, and some of them are still in their original upright positions. The stone row ends, as nearly all such rows do, in what appears to be a cratered barrow surrounded by a retaining-circle which is marked on the 6-inch maps as a Stone Circle. The stones of this circle turn inwards towards the mound, which probably covers a stone cist. Nearby are several cairns on Butterdon Hill, Ugborough Beacon, and Western Beacon. On the south-west and south-east slopes of Butterdon Hill are some hut circles.

The region thus traversed contains no less than thirty cairns, many hut circles, and a fine stone row as well as a stone cist. To the north of Three Barrows the moors are equally prolific, especially in hut circles on the slopes of the Rivers Erme and Avon which bound Ugborough Moor on the west and east.

Readers who wish to amplify this very brief and sketchy account of Dartmoor prehistoric sites cannot do better than consult the papers by the two Worths in the proceedings of the Devonshire Association.

In conclusion it must be emphasized that the real Dartmoor is not to be found by charging along the Tavistock-Chagford road in a car. The real Dartmoor is revealed only to those who explore on foot the remotest parts, in all weathers and at all seasons.

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CHAPTER III

STANTON DREW AND THE MENDIP HILLS

This noble monument is vulgarly called the Weddings; and they say, 'tis a company that assisted at a nuptial ceremony thus petrify'd. In an orchard near the church is a cove consisting of three stones . . . this they call the parson, the bride and bridegroom. Other circles are said to be the company dancing: and a separate parcel of stones standing a little from the rest are call'd the fiddlers, or the band of musick.—STUKELEY, *Itinerarium Curiosum*.

THE charming village of Stanton Drew is some five miles south of Bristol and the same distance north of the Mendip Hills. Slightly east of the village is a very large stone circle, which has the remains of what may be a stone avenue extending north-eastwards. To the north of this avenue is a smaller stone circle, and there is another small circle south of the largest one. Behind the 'Druids' Arms' Inn is a group of three very large stones known as the Cove; the purpose of the Cove is not known, but the monument is almost certainly contemporary with the adjoining stone circles. North of the circles is a single stone known as Hautville's Quoit, from the tradition that one Sir John Hautville threw it from the hill to the north known as Maes Knoll.

It is said that the Stanton Drew stones cannot be counted correctly—

No one, say the country people about Stanton-dreue, was ever able to reckon the number of these metamorphosed stones, or to take a draught of them, though several have attempted to do both, and proceeded till they were either struck dead upon the spot, or with such an illness as soon carried them off.¹

There is little or no evidence that any of the Stanton Drew monuments was sepulchral; in fact the country in the

¹ Wood, *Description of Bath*, vol. 1, p. 148.

immediate vicinity does not appear to contain barrows. Still these stones are much too important to be omitted from a glimpse of the prehistory of Mendip and its surroundings.

Before mounting the Mendip Hills it is well to note a few of the more important sites near-by. Five miles west of Stanton Drew, and near Butcombe, is the chambered long barrow known as Fairy's Toot, supposed to be the haunt of ghosts, goblins, and fairies. Report has it that strange noises have been heard beneath this mound. It is a long barrow of true passage-grave type, having burial-chambers leading off from a central passage.

A similar barrow in better condition is the fine chambered long barrow at Stoney Littleton, 5 miles south of Bath. This is likewise of true passage-grave type, having an entrance leading to a passage 48 feet long, with three burial-chambers on each side and one at the end. The key to this monument is obtainable at Stoney Littleton Farm half a mile to the south-west, and the admission fee is 3d. The mound is surrounded by a low wall of dry stone walling a foot or two high. At least some of this walling is probably original. The entrance to the passage beneath the mound is placed between two convex horns, and consists of two uprights and a capstone. The passage is in good condition and is about 4 feet high and 4 feet wide. The seven burial-chambers are of similar dimensions. Ramblers are strongly advised to take an electric torch when viewing the passage and chambers of this monument, the interior of which is very dark. It should be noticed that the roofing slabs of the passage do not normally rest directly on the large wall-stones, but rest on an intermediate layer of piled-up dry stone walling. The roofing is largely by corbelling, overlapping layers of dry stone walling converging towards the roof, the whole being surmounted by a capstone. These structural features are frequently met with in barrows of this kind, and they are seen better at Stoney Littleton than at almost any other barrow.

Among the finest round barrows in Somerset is a beautifully-formed bell-burrow with an outer bank, immediately north of the railway line half a mile west of West Cranmore near Shepton Mallet. It is the best of a group of three, and is

'well turned' in the best Wiltshire tradition. It was opened in 1869 and yielded a cremation and two bronze knife-daggers.

We now ascend the Mendip Hills, the most tumular part of which is north of the railway between Wells and Cheddar, from which stations, or from Wookey, this region is very accessible. The Mendip Hills resemble parts of the moors of Cornwall and Derbyshire in being riddled in places with shafts of old lead-mines. The mining industry, which ceased many years ago, is reflected also in the names of some of the inns: the Miners' Arms is in the centre of the Priddy barrow-area, and is a good and popular unlicensed roadhouse. It is fortunate for archaeology that in the Middle Ages some attention was paid to the bounds of the Mendip mining areas, for barrows are sometimes mentioned in the perambulations of these bounds.

The ancient town of Wells forms a convenient starting-point for a barrow-hunt. In the words of Leland, it 'is sette yn the rootes of Mendepe hille in a stony soile and ful of springes, whereof it hath the name. . . . I esteeme it to lak litle of a 2 miles in ennpaace, al for the most part buildid of stone'. A road to the north-east leads to a narrow track to the west by the first milestone. This track leads to Pen Hill, on which is a long barrow which I have not yet seen. There is also a small round barrow on this hill, surmounted by a pile of stones. East of the Hunter's Lodge Inn near-by, and north of the road to Hill Grove, is a fine circular barrow, intermediate between bell and disc types. It has however been damaged by the sinking of lead-mine shafts, especially on the east side. On Stock Hill to the north is a fine group of tumuli, about five in number, all of bowl shape, the largest of which is about 10 feet high. The surrounding ground is riddled with old mine-shafts.

To the north-west are two large bowl-barrows east of the road to the Miners' Arms, and there is a tree-covered example to the west. On North Hill still farther west are the two finest groups on Mendip—the Priddy Nine Barrows and the Ashen Hill Barrows. The former are the southern group, and it consists entirely of bowl-barrows. The Ashen Hill group contains eight examples in a row, most of which are bracken-covered. They are all bowls except one near the

centre which is a doubtful bell. From this hill fine views are obtainable, and Glastonbury Tor is visible from the Priddy group.

A track from the Priddy group northwards leads to the metalled road where there is a large barrow on a parish-boundary. North of this is another track leading to the well-known earth circles, four in number, arranged from north to south. Their period and purpose appear to be unknown; local tradition inclines to the belief that they are Roman. Each circle has an overall diameter of about 200 yards or more, and consists of a flat central area surrounded by a bank and outer ditch. The southern circle is the best preserved. An isolated circle of similar type is on Beacon Hill east of the Fosse Way and north of Shepton Mallet. There is a group of similar ones near Thornborough, Yorkshire (boundary of North and West Ridings).

To the south-west is the village of Priddy, near the church of which are two round barrows. The surrounding heaths are strewn with barrows in singles and groups. Some of the best groups are near Bristol Plain Farm to the west. They nearly all consist of large bowls, but there is a small long barrow, about 75 feet long, three quarters of a mile west of the village inn. The moors within about 2 miles of Priddy contain about a hundred tumuli, which are observable on the skyline in almost all directions. Although they are large and impressive, they form a rather monotonous series as they are nearly all of the common bowl type. There is, however, a probable bell-barrow at Westbury Beacon near Cheddar but I have not yet seen it.

Some years ago a round barrow west of Pool Farm, near the northernmost of the four earth circles, was opened under the direction of Rev. Father Ethelbert Horne, F.S.A., and his excavations exposed a fine stone cist containing a cremation, in the centre of the mound. The earth of the mound was almost entirely removed, but the stone cist remains in its original position, an object of considerable interest, and is well worth a visit.

Several barrows near Priddy and Ashen Hill were opened in 1815 by Rev. John Skinner, a noted local antiquary who was a friend of Sir Richard Colt Hoare and other eminent

antiquaries. All the barrows Skinner opened with result yielded primary burials by cremation, and were evidently of Middle Bronze Age. Skinner committed suicide in 1839, leaving nearly a hundred volumes of beautifully written manuscripts of his travels and antiquarian researches, which he bequeathed to the British Museum.

This chapter cannot be drawn to a close without reference to the celebrated caves at Cheddar, Wookey, and elsewhere, which are in the midst of this range of beautiful moors covered with gorse and bracken. These caves should be visited by all who come to this area. Wookey Hole cave is very near the main barrow-centre.

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CHAPTER IV

DORCHESTER AND THE RIDGEWAY

Certainly, for healthful air and prospect, a most delightful place ; and, for sight of barrows, I believe not to be equalled in the world.
STUKELEY, *Itinerarium Curiosum*, 1776, p. 163

SLIGHTLY south of the road from Bridport to Dorchester is a range of chalk downs which are littered with prehistoric remains including long and round barrows, stone circles, entrenchments, and camps. The profusion of sites begins at the turning from the main road to Long Bredy. At this point, north of the road, are two large round barrows, one of which appears to be a bell, and a short distance eastwards is a third example. From the highest of the three a good view may be obtained of a standing stone in a field to the east.

A green track from this point south-eastwards mounts the chalk downs and after a few yards leads the rambler to an enormous earthwork about 200 yards long with a ditch on each side. Continuing his way eastwards the rambler passes a conical ditched bowl-barrow and then a small long barrow with ditches along the sides but not round the ends. Next comes a truncated bowl-barrow with surrounding ditch. The inexperienced earthwork-hunter must beware of classing this mound as a ring- or platform-barrow. Then follow a few small round ones, and by the track leading to the seventh milestone on the main road is a large bowl with a massive stone boulder on top.

As the walker continues along the ridgeway he gets a fine view of an extensive spread of barrows on the slopes of Black Down to the north. This group is well worth seeing at close quarters as it contains some fine bells, discs, and other more exceptional types. A fine disc-barrow north of the road at



ENTRANCE TO THE STONEY LITTLETON LONG BARROW



BELL-BARROW NEAR MAIDEN CASTLE, DORCHESTER



Poor Lot is also visible from the ridgeway, and the long mound behind this dike is a group of three confluent howls.

From the barrow crowned by a stone boulder is a track leading southwards over Whatcombe Down and across a stream to a stone circle south-west of Little Bredy. This circle is composed of about eighteen prostrate stones and is in excellent condition. A short distance south-east is the long barrow containing the stones known as the Grey Mare and her Colts. These stones are at the eastern end of the mound and are probably the remains of a burial-chamber, or of the entrance to one. From here it is just over a mile to the charming village of Portisham where a halt for lunch is recommended. In this village lived Admiral Hardy who was captain of the *Victory* at the Battle of Trafalgar. His house is still standing.

North-east of Portisham is a burial-chamber known as the Hell Stone, protruding from the vestige of what may have been a long barrow. It consists at present of an enormous capstone supported by nine uprights, rather more than 5 feet high. This impressive structure is not, however, in its original form. It was, as Lieut.-Colonel Drew informs the writer, restored about a century ago, and the monument in its present condition may bear little resemblance to its original plan. About a mile distant is the Hardy Monument, erected in memory of Admiral Hardy. Black Down on which the monument is situated consists of sandy heathland studded with round barrows including one or two rather good bells.

From the Hardy Monument the great Ridgeway runs eastwards for several miles and is thickly studded with tumuli as far as White Horse Hill above Osnington. As the track goes over Bronkham Hill it passes a group of fine bowls and a very fine bell-barrow on heathland. From Corton Down onwards we are once again on the chalk, and for the next mile or more there are large howl-burrows on each side of the Ridgeway at frequent intervals. A grand view of Maiden Castle, the great Early Iron Age hill fort, is obtainable to the north, and to the south are magnificent views of Weymouth, Portland Bill, Chesil Bank, and the sea. West of Maiden Castle may be seen a large conical mound in a ploughed field; this is Clandon Barrow, in which was found in 1882 a celebrated

amber cup of the Early Bronze Age, now in Dorchester Museum. Some gold ornaments were found in the same barrow. North of Maiden Castle is an enormous bell-barrow illustrated in Plate X.

Immediately east of the point of intersection of the Ridgeway with the road from Upwey to Winterborne St. Martin, is a very large tumulus intermediate in type between bell and disc. It consists of a circular mound 7 feet high placed on a platform over 30 yards in diameter, and this platform is surrounded by a ditch with outer bank, the diameter of the whole earthwork being about 75 yards. It is one of the finest examples of its kind in existence, although unfortunately the eastern side has been ploughed out. Some of the barrows on the Ridgeway immediately west of the Dorchester-Weymouth road were opened in the latter part of last century by Edward Cunnington, whose finds and unpublished notes are in Dorchester Museum, as Lieut.-Colonel Drew informs me.

South of the Ridgeway and immediately east of the road to Weymouth is a small round barrow set round with a circle of stones, in a ploughed field. East of this is Bincombe Down, crowned by a very fine large bell-barrow on heathland, and one or two smaller bowls. Continuing eastwards the rambler passes a number of tumuli on a golf-course, and a very fine group at Culliford Tree east of Came Wood. Many of the barrows in this region were opened by Charles Warne and are described in his *Celtic Tumuli of Dorset*. The name Culliford Tree is given to a clump of trees on a large round barrow surrounded by a tree-planting earth circle of recent origin. This mound is known as the Music Barrow, from a belief that at the apex of the mound a melody may be heard at mid-day. (It must be the rustling of the trees!) North of this mound is a gorse-covered long barrow with flank ditches. East of Culliford Tree are some bowls and a nearly levelled ring-mound, perhaps a ring-barrow, and there is also a most unusual arrangement consisting of a long entrenchment with a barrow at each end. The trench may not have any relation to the barrows, but if it has, it may be paralleled by the Long Low near Wetton, Staffordshire, which likewise consists of a long walled entrenchment with a circular mound at each end.

Culliford Tree commands fine views of Chalbury Camp, Portland, and the sea to the south. To the south-west a fine group of tumuli on Bincombe Hill is visible. Among this group is a very fine bell-burrow about 10 feet high, and a row of three confluent bowls.

After this rather long perambulation of the downs the ramblers cannot do better than drop down into the old-world village of Sutton Poyntz for a cup of tea. In this connexion I can recommend the Spring Head Hotel, situated opposite a delightful stream (spring head) and a row of cosy thatched cottages. From the village it is easy to get a view of the White Horse on the hill near-by. This figure was cut early in the nineteenth century and represents King George III on horseback.

This chapter cannot close without a reference to the antiquities on the Egdon Heath of Thomas Hardy's novels, situated east of Dorchester. A Roman Road from Dorchester crosses this heath near a group of tumuli known as Rainbarrows, the scene of many of the incidents in Hardy's novel *The Return of the Native*. One of these barrows is thus described by the great Wessex novelist:—

The first tall flame from Rainbarrow sprang into the sky . . . it showed the barrow to be the segment of a globe, as perfect as on the day when it was thrown up, even the little ditch remaining from which the earth was dug. Not a plough had ever disturbed a grain of that stubborn soil. In the heath's barrenness to the farmer lay its fertility to the historian.

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The Dorset County Museum at Dorchester contains a good collection of finds from the local barrows, especially those opened by Charles Warne.

CHAPTER V

WOODYATES AND CRANBORNE CHASE

As the explorer advances in a north-eastern direction towards the adjoining county of Wilts, the barrows present increasing evidence of greater refinement and of a further advance in art.

J. SYDENHAM, in *Archaeologia*, vol. 30

QUITTING Dorchester by the Salisbury road, the traveller after passing through Blandford will eventually arrive at Tarrant Hinton down, which is crowned with some barrows and entrenchments on the east of the road. A short distance farther on is the cross-roads at Thickethorn. The road to the south-east leads to Thickethorn Down with its long barrows and other ancient earthworks, and the road to the north-west leads to the Pitt-Rivers Museum and Farnham. The Pitt-Rivers Museum is considered to be among the best archaeological museums in the country. It is noted for the models made to scale showing the excavations and marking the exact positions of the articles found. The exhibits in the archaeological department consist in the main of articles illustrating the celebrated excavations undertaken by Lieut.-Gen. Pitt-Rivers on Cranborne Chase and elsewhere towards the end of last century. Pitt-Rivers' tomb is in Tolland Royal Church. Refreshments and lodging if required may be obtained at the Museum Hotel, Farnham, which is a good centre for Cranborne Chase.

The metalled road from Thickethorn cross-roads over Thickethorn down to the south-east leads to some ancient entrenchments and two long barrows, the western example being by far the larger. The eastern one was opened in 1933 by Lieut.-Colonel C. D. Drew, and Messrs. Alexander Keiller and Stuart Piggott. The barrow appears to have been a cenotaph, a most thorough search having failed to reveal the

primary burial, which could not have perished because animals' bones near the ground-level under the barrow were in a good state of preservation. Most long barrows have a stratum of black earth on the original turf-level beneath the mound. This was well-exposed at Thickthorn. Secondary burials with beakers were found just beneath the top of the mound.

On Gussage Hill nearly two miles to the north-east is a group of three long barrows, with other earthworks associated. The metalled road to Salisbury and the Roman Aekling Dyke converge and meet 2 miles north of Gussage Down. A mile north of that hill the two roads enclose a group of round barrows on Wyke Down. On Handley Hill still farther north are a few more, near where the road to Handley cuts the Aekling Dyke. Half a mile north of Handley Hill cross-roads is the celebrated Wor Barrow, a long barrow which was opened by Pitt-Rivers. It contained a burial in a rectangular area surrounded by wooden posts. A model of this excavated barrow is in the Farnham Museum. Pitt-Rivers never replaced the earth after opening this barrow, the earth-heaps outside the ditch of which are his unreplaced dumps. The long barrows at Thickthorn, Gussage and Wor Barrow are part of an important group of long barrows on the downs of north-east Dorset.

The road from Handley Hill to Cranborne forms a triangle with the Salisbury Road and the Aekling Dyke. In this triangle is the celebrated Woodyates group of barrows, one of the finest groups in the country.

The Woodyates group consists of at least 26 barrows of which 22 are inside the triangle formed by the roads. Among the group are two diminutive long barrows in which cremations, apparently primary burials, were found by Colt Hoare who opened several examples in this group. These long barrows, of which there are several in the southern counties and Yorkshire, probably belong to a later date (Bronze Age) than the Neolithic long barrows which tend to be larger, and contain unburnt burials.

Bowl-barrows are the most numerous kind at Woodyates, where they number about 14, and there are several more in outlying groups on Bottlebush Down, Handley Hill and else-

where. A remarkably fine one, mentioned in a Saxon charter as Berendes Beorh, is south of the road from Handley to Cranborne, and just west of the point where it cuts the Ackling Dyke.

The main group at Woodyates contains one doubtful and two well-marked bell-barrows, as well as a disc-barrow with an unusually large mound, which may also be regarded as a bell-barrow with an unusually small mound. The ditch surrounding this mound at a short distance is barely perceptible to the eye although quite clear on an air-photograph.

The most remarkable examples are, however, the disc-barrows, of which there are six, excluding the one with a large mound noted above. One of these, west of the metalled road, has one central tump. Another, immediately east of Ackling Dyke, is now under plough. This barrow is noteworthy in that it is cut across by Ackling Dyke, which is a Roman road, thereby showing that the barrow is pre-Roman. Of the four disc-barrows inside the triangle, three have each two tumps, and the remaining one has three tumps, which is very unusual. One of the disc-barrows with two tumps is oval. The inference is that it was originally constructed to be a twin-barrow. The normal example with two tumps has one in the centre and the other away from the centre. The latter may frequently have been added later. The double-tumped oval disc-barrow just described is the second disc-barrow in this group cut by the Roman Ackling Dyke.

The barrows in this group opened by Hoare yielded an array of cinerary urns, incense-cups, arrow-heads, amber and shale beads and other ornaments, and other articles deposited with the dead. Several barrows in this group appear to belong to the very early Bronze Age, on the evidence of burials of contracted skeletons with beakers.

Nearly two miles north-east of the Woodyates group is the gigantic earthwork known as Bokerly Ditch, which should on no account be missed by the rambler. From this Ditch there runs a road to the south towards Cranborne, whence are two roads leading to Wimborne St. Giles. Near this village are several large bowl-barrows, three of which are in the beautiful park. By the side of a road north of the park there are four bowl-barrows in a row. The pretty village

of Wimborne St. Giles contains a P.R.H.A. inn ('The Bull').

A walk from the village through the park leads to the metalled road running south-west which reaches Knowlton in less than a mile. At Knowlton are five or six earthworks, two of which are large bowl-barrows; the other three or four are large earth circles of unknown purpose but probably religious or sepulchral. The finest earth circle, which is no less than 116 yards in diameter, has the ruins of a church in the centre. Heywood Sumner has written: 'the site of this ruined Christian church, standing within an earthen circle that seems to belong to the unknown religion of the early Britons, and guarded without by a row of ancient yew trees, is indeed most beautiful'.

The other circles are not nearly as well preserved as this one: in fact they are so vague that even their number is difficult to determine.

The road southwards passes a few ploughed barrows, mostly on the west, and a rather prominent tree-covered example near the Horton Inn, from which is a road leading back to Farnham which is about 6 miles distant. The Thickethorn long barrows are passed en route.

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6-inch *O.S. Dorset*, 9 SE. and 10 SW. (The Woodyates Group).

MUSEUM :

The Pitt-Rivers Museum, Farnham, Dorset: contains a unique collection of scale models of excavations in ancient earthworks.

CHAPTER VI

STONEHENGE AND SALISBURY PLAIN

We now come to a noble group of barrows . . . diversified in their forms, perfect in their symmetry, and rich in their contents.

HOARE, *Ancient Wiltshire*, vol. I, p. 109

WE now reach the plains of Stonehenge, where barrows of all kinds, long, bowl, bell, and disc, in singles, twins and triples, are to be found in their most perfect state. For barrow-architecture reaches its zenith on Salisbury Plain. In this region these mounds are more numerous than almost anywhere else in England. As early as 1740, Stukeley wrote that it is 'no small entertainment for a curious person, to remark their beauties, their variety in form and magnitude, their situation. . . . There is likewise a great variety in their shape, and turn, and in their diameters, in their manner of composition. . . . Upon every range of hills, quite round Stonehenge, are successive groups of barrows, for some miles'. The plains of Stonehenge are universally admitted to be the most important barrow-hunting ground in England.

First, a word must be said as to Stonehenge itself. It is a monument about which many volumes and papers have been written, and this is not the place for a detailed account of this famous stone circle. It is enough to say that it originally consisted of an outer circle of sarsens which were placed in the form of trilithons, or groups of two uprights surmounted by a capstone. These capstones had a hollow near each end, which fitted into corresponding projecting knobs on each upright. Inside this outer circle was a circle of so-called 'blue-stones' supposed to have been brought from the Prescelly Hills about 170 miles distant. Inside this circle was a horseshoe-shaped arrangement, again composed of an outer ring of trilithons of sarsen, and an inner ring of single stones of blue-stone. Inside this inner horseshoe was an altar-stone.



SINGLE AND TWIN BELL-HARROWS AMONG THE NORMANTON GROUP, NEAR STONEHENGE, FROM THE AIR

The two tiny circles are fungus-rings



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THE CURSUS GROUP, NORTH OF STONEHENGE, FROM THE AIR

It should be noted that the trilithons may be later than the circles of single stones.

Stonehenge is supposed to have been a temple dedicated to sun-worship. 'The sun rises over the Hele Stone and shines directly on the altar stone and central trilithon on mid-summer day.' The Hele Stone is in the earthen avenue north-east of the circle.

Woodhenge, a timber circle which formerly existed north-east of Stonehenge, near Durrington, is supposed to be a century or two earlier than Stonehenge. The site is marked by a number of stones representing the sites of the original posts, which were in six concentric oval rings.

Stonehenge was evidently a place of worship, and as such was a place of great sanctity. It is for this reason that the whole of the surrounding downs are nothing more nor less than a vast cemetery of a prehistoric age. It is for this reason that the area is of supreme importance to the barrow-student. The late A. Hadrian Allcroft believed that usually 'the churchyard is older than the church'. There are a few long barrows in the immediate vicinity of Stonehenge, and these are probably earlier than the circle. But these few long barrows form but a small part of this vast cemetery, which consists of over 300 round barrows of all the leading types. It is thought that Stonehenge is in date between 1800 and 1000 B.C., and nearly all the round barrows on the surrounding hills are between these two dates. The writer hazards the personal opinion that Stonehenge was in existence before the majority of these barrows were erected; and that most of the barrows were erected near Stonehenge on account of the great sanctity of the site. This idea, if correct, is of fundamental importance.

After seeing Stonehenge the traveller is strongly recommended to inspect some of the groups of barrows in the vicinity. The nearest barrow to Stonehenge, apart from two small ones by the circular bank and ditch surrounding it, is immediately to the east; this is a large bell-barrow. In the plantations further eastward are two groups each known as the Seven Barrows. Stukeley called the northern group the 'Old King Barrows' and the southern group the 'New King Barrows'. At present (1936) they look like large

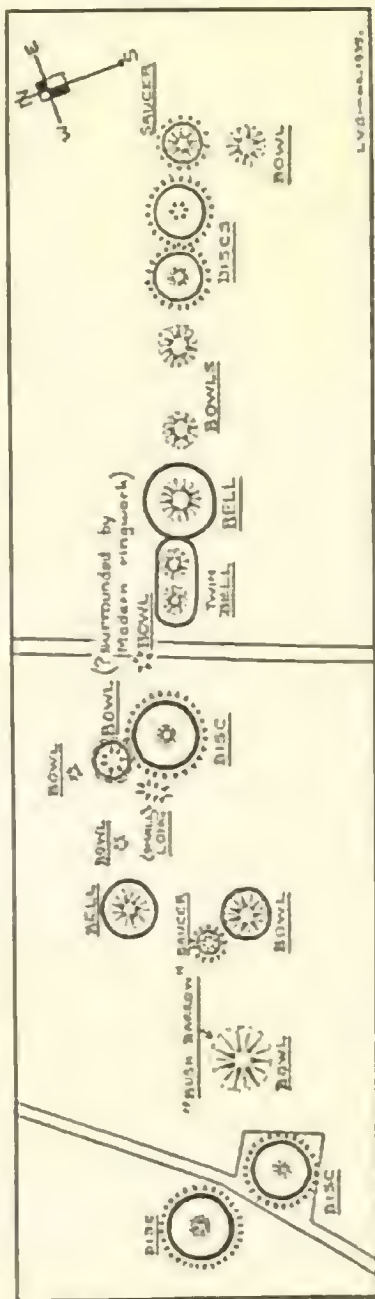
bowls, but they are covered with trees, and burrowing by rabbits may have altered their original form. Some of them may have been bells. One was opened by the Duke of Buckingham in the seventeenth century, and a Mrs. Trotman told the credulous John Aubrey that he found in it 'a huge horn tipt with silver at both ends, which his Grace kept in his closet as a great relique'. The Old and New King Barrows are, however, not by any means the best to look upon, their present condition being not too good.

There is a remarkably fine group north-west of Stonehenge, and south of the Greater Cursus. The Cursus is a very long earthwork of unknown use. There is a smaller one to the north-west, known as the Lesser Cursus. The Greater Cursus barrow-group consists of a row of enormous bowl- and bell-barrows, two of which, near the east end, form a twin. The air-photograph (Plate XI) shows that the barrow at the west end has a bank outside the ditch. This shows up as a white circle of chalk of which the bank is composed. This chalk bank has been exposed by the plough. There are a number of other barrows north of the road between Stonehenge and Rollestone, and near the Lesser Cursus.

South-west of the Lesser Cursus is a cross-roads. The road southwards leads to some more barrows, mostly east of the road. These include a large bell, north of a square earthwork. To the south is the magnificent Winterbourne Cross-roads group, one of the finest groups in existence. The air-photograph (Plate II) shows the fine long barrow, the long axis of which is in line with two bell-barrows and several of bowl shape. One of these bells is overlapped by a small circular bank rather like a shallow pond-barrow, which is evidently later than the barrow it overlaps. The eastern bell is known as King Barrow, a name given to it by Houre by whom it was opened. It contained a skeleton placed in a coffin made from the trunk of an elm tree. With the skeleton were two knife-daggers, probably of bronze. North of these bell-barrows are two fine discs, one with two mounds on the central platform. The Winterbourne Cross-roads group was called by Thurnam a 'perfect group' because it contained the finest examples of all the main types—long, bowl, bell and disc.

The road eastwards from the Winterbourne Cross-roads leads past the south-west side of Stonehenge, where there are several more barrows, mostly among or near a group of buildings. Of special interest is an oval disc-barrow with two tumps, some 400 yards south-west of Stonehenge, and slightly east of the buildings.

To the east of the double-tumped disc-barrow just mentioned is a track leading south-westwards to Normanton Down, on which is probably the best group of barrows in England, the celebrated Normanton group. North of Normanton Gorse, and some 400 yards north-west of the main group, is the barrow described by Colt Hoare as 'the most beautiful bell-barrow on the plains of Stonehenge'. It is now not so beautifully situated, having a hideous shed near it. There are three barrows in Normanton Gorse, including a disc, but they are not very accessible. East of this wood are two magnifi-



7.—THE NORMANTON GROUP (THE FINEST GROUP OF BARROWS IN WILTSHIRE)

[Scale: 1 inch = 100 yards]

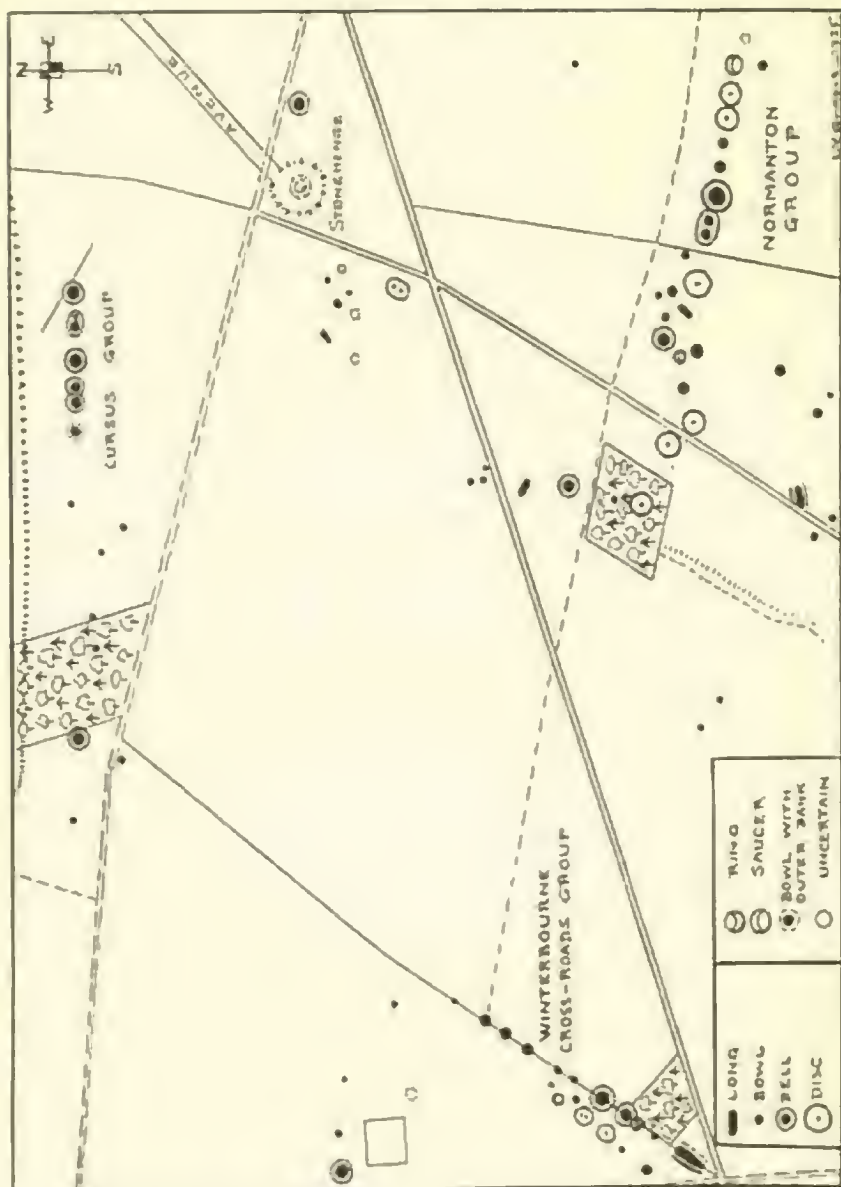
cent disc-barrows, one on each side of the track from Stonehenge. The next example to the east is Bush Barrow, covered with trees. Then follow some large bowls and bells, and a very small long barrow, east of which is another disc. Still farther to the east is a remarkable twin bell-barrow, east of which is an enormous and perfectly formed bell-barrow, one of the finest extant. Farther east are several more bowls and discs. South-west of the main group is an outlier which includes a long barrow by the road from Stonehenge, east of which are some bowls and bells. This wonderful group has to be seen to be believed; for nearly all the examples composing it represent the zenith of barrow-architecture. All are beautiful, imposing and impressive.

Most of them were opened by Colt Hoare, and their contents were as remarkable as their outward appearance. Many of them yielded personal ornaments of gold and amber, as well as the usual array of pottery beakers, incense-cups, cinerary urns and bronze knife-daggers associated with the burials.

Less than a mile farther south-westwards along the track from Stonehenge is the Lake group. Most of the members of this group are in a wood, but there are some fine bell-barrows on the open down, including some which have had their ditches nearly obliterated by the plough. When the writer saw these barrows about 1931, these surrounding ditches could be traced by the abundant growth of wild flowers on them. These flowers were not growing elsewhere. The barrows referred to are those on the open down in the southern angle of the wood. One very large barrow in the wood is known as Prophet's Barrow, from a tradition that about 1710 some French prophets preached to an enthusiastic multitude from this mound.

A short distance eastwards along the plantation is the Wilsford group, also mostly in a wood. There used to be some fine pond-barrows north of the wood, but these have long been under plough and are now visible only as large dish-shaped depressions in the ground. Among the group are some fine and large bowl-barrows. On Lake Down to the south is another group near some ancient entrenchments.

On Amesbury Down east of the River Avon is a remarkable



8.—THE MOST IMPORTANT FLINTHOUSES NEAR STONEHENGE.

[Scale: 3.7 ins. to 1 mile]

triple-barrow, intermediate in type between bell and disc. It consists of a long oval bank with a ditch inside, enclosing a long oval platform on which are three mounds arranged in a line. These mounds are larger than those of normal disc-barrows, yet much smaller than those of the normal bell-barrow. Triple-barrows of this type are extremely rare, the only other example known to the writer being on Turner's Hill near Elstead in Surrey. Our brief survey of the barrows in the immediate vicinity of Stonehenge is now completed. It remains to indicate some of the more significant of the outlying groups.

The first group that I commend to my reader is in the vicinity of Tilshead, some 7 or 8 miles north-west of Stonehenge. This group is remarkable for its long barrows, which include that near the Tilshead Old Ditch. The Tilshead Old Ditch long barrow is probably the largest in the country, being no less than 390 feet long. It is flanked on the long sides by a gigantic ditch which conforms to type in not going round the ends of the mound. *This magnificent and impressive long barrow should be seen by all those interested in the early monuments of this country.* Near-by are several other long barrows including Kill Barrow and White Barrow. There are also about a dozen round barrows scattered over the hills between Chitterne Down and Tilshead.

Between Chitterne St. Mary and Upton Lovell are two sites of some importance. The first is the Ashton Valley group of several round barrows including one of bell shape, on the slope of Codford Down and almost in a valley overlooking a tributary of the River Wylye. The other site is the Upton Great Barrow to the west, which is rather disappointing in proportion to its fame in archaeology. It was opened at the beginning of last century by Wm. Cunnington, who found in it a cremation, accompanied by

forty-eight beads, sixteen of which were of green and blue opaque glass, of a long shape, and notched between so as to resemble a string of beads; five were of enamel coal or jet; and the remaining twenty-seven were of red amber; the whole forming a most beautiful necklace, and such as a British female would not in these modern days of good taste and elegance disdain to wear.¹

¹ HOARE, *Ancient Wilts*, I, pp. 76-7.



Crown Casparyth Reserved

THE SILK HILL GROUP, WILTS

The notched beads referred to are the segmented beads of bluish vitreous paste which are held by eminent Egyptologists to have been either made in Egypt or made under Egyptian influence. They have been found in at least 22 barrows in Wiltshire, and in several other barrows in the southern counties. They are probably between 1600 and 1100 B.C.

Returning eastwards towards Stonehenge, the rambler should note two groups, one on each side of the River Till, north of Winterbourne Stoke. The western group is mostly enclosed in a roughly rectangular earthwork known as the Coniger. This group contains two discs, seven bowls, and one of the rare 'pond-barrows'. Both disc-barrows are encroached on by the Coniger earthwork which is therefore later in date.

The group to the east is known as the Winterbourne Stoke (East) group, and is enclosed in a roughly oval earthwork. It consists of ten examples, all circular and of bowl shape. The central example is much larger than the others. One barrow, near the surrounding entrenchment, approaches the platform variety.

The remaining groups to be described are east of the River Avon.

Between Idmiston and the Pheasant or Hut Inn north of Winterslow are several small groups; that on Idmiston Down includes bells and discs, but the latter are in a very dense plantation and almost impossible to see. The best barrows in this area are two enormous bell-barrows about half a mile north-west of the Pheasant Inn. One of these is reputed to be the largest round barrow in Wiltshire except Silbury Hill. This example is visible from the Pheasant Inn and is near the road leading from the inn northwards. A striking feature is the enormously wide berm or platform between the mound and the ditch. As at the Lake group, the ditch around this barrow is indicated by weeds growing over it. The actual ditch has been ploughed away, but the richer soil therein is evidently conducive to the growth of certain kinds of weed which form a ring round the mound at a distance of about 12 yards. This and the barrow near the plantation to the west are known as the Winterslow Colossal Barrows.

About 4 miles north-east of Amesbury is the Silk Hill group, of which a remarkably good air-photograph is shown in Plate XII. The group consists of about 22 examples, all circular. Among them are three discs, one ring and one bell; the remainder are bowls, with the exception of a very large circular earthwork of most unusual form. It consists of a very large mound surrounded by a bank with an outer ditch, the overall diameter being about 70 yards. It may be a barrow of a type so far as is known unique, or it may be a sacred circle intended for worship rather than for burial. Colt Hoare opened it but found no burial and was inclined to doubt whether it was a barrow. In one of the other barrows in this group Hoare found a flint strike-a-light and a piece of iron pyrites.

Three miles north of Tidworth is another fine group on Snail Down. This comprises about thirty examples, most of which are bowls. Other types include four bells, two discs (one with two tumps) and two very rare twin-barrows, each consisting of a large and a small mound enclosed in the same ditch. A large bowl-barrow among this group yielded a remarkable interment thus described by Colt Hoare:

. . . The body of the deceased had been burned, and the bones and ashes piled up in a small heap, which was surrounded by a circular wreath of horns of the red deer, within which, and amidst the ashes, were five beautiful arrow-heads cut out of flint, and a small red pebble. . . . Thus we most clearly see the profession of the Briton here interred. In the flint arrow-heads we recognize his fatal implements of destruction; in the stag's horns we see the victims of his skill as a hunter; and the bones of the dog deposited in the same grave, and above those of his master, commemorate his faithful attendant in the chase, and perhaps his unfortunate victim in death.

On Cow Down to the south-east is another group, near and in Barrow Plantation. Barrows of long, bowl, bell and disc types are scattered here and there over the downs to the south-west of these groups.

Three miles west of Snail Down is the Everleigh twin-barrow, one of the finest twin-barrows on Salisbury Plain. On Longstreet Down to the north-east are two more barrows, one of which is a fine bell. On West Everleigh Down north



A BELL-BARROW AMONG THE SNAIL DOWN GROUP,
WILTS



THE EVERLEIGH TWIN-BARROWS, WILTS



of the metalled road are two magnificent bells and a disc. On Milton Hill a long mile to the north-east is a double-tumped oval disc-barrow near a triple-barrow. The latter resembles the Overton Hill example, described in the next chapter, in being composed of two bell-barrows with a bowl-barrow placed between them; in each case this bowl-barrow may have been added after the bell-barrows were erected.

Thus we bring to an end our review of this dazzling array of barrows of all types, in their most perfect and highly developed forms, on Salisbury Plain. The Plain is nothing more nor less than an open-air museum of barrows—a great necropolis of prehistoric times. Let the reader explore the plain for himself, and enjoy its rolling and bracing downs and springy turf, and he will find that as for its wealth in prehistoric earthworks, the half has not been told in this brief chapter.

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- 6-inch O.S. Maps, Wiltshire. Sheets 53, 54, 55 NW, and 60 NW, are among the more important.
- 1-inch O.S. Popular Edition. Sheet 122.
- O.S. Map of Neolithic Wessex.

2-inch O.S. Map of War Department Land on Salisbury Plain (this map is of great archaeological value, although heavily overprinted with War Office data).

O.S. Maps of Celtic Earthworks on Salisbury Plain. (Only one of the six proposed sheets has so far been published, and this covers the Old Sarum area. The scale is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches to the mile.)

MUSEUM:

The Museum of the the Wiltshire Archaeological Society at Devizes, contains a fine collection of grave-goods, found in the Wiltshire barrows by Hoare, the Cunningtons, and others.

CHAPTER VII

AVEBURY AND THE MARLBOROUGH DOWNS

Avebury doth as much exceed Stonehenge in grandeur as a Cathedral doth an ordinary Parish Church.

JOHN AUBREY (1626-97)

With awe and diffidence, I enter the sacred precincts of this once hallowed sanctuary, the supposed parent of Stonehenge, the wonder of Britain, and the most ancient, as well as the most interesting relict which our island can produce.

SIR R. C. HOARE, *Ancient Wiltshire*, vol. II, p. 57

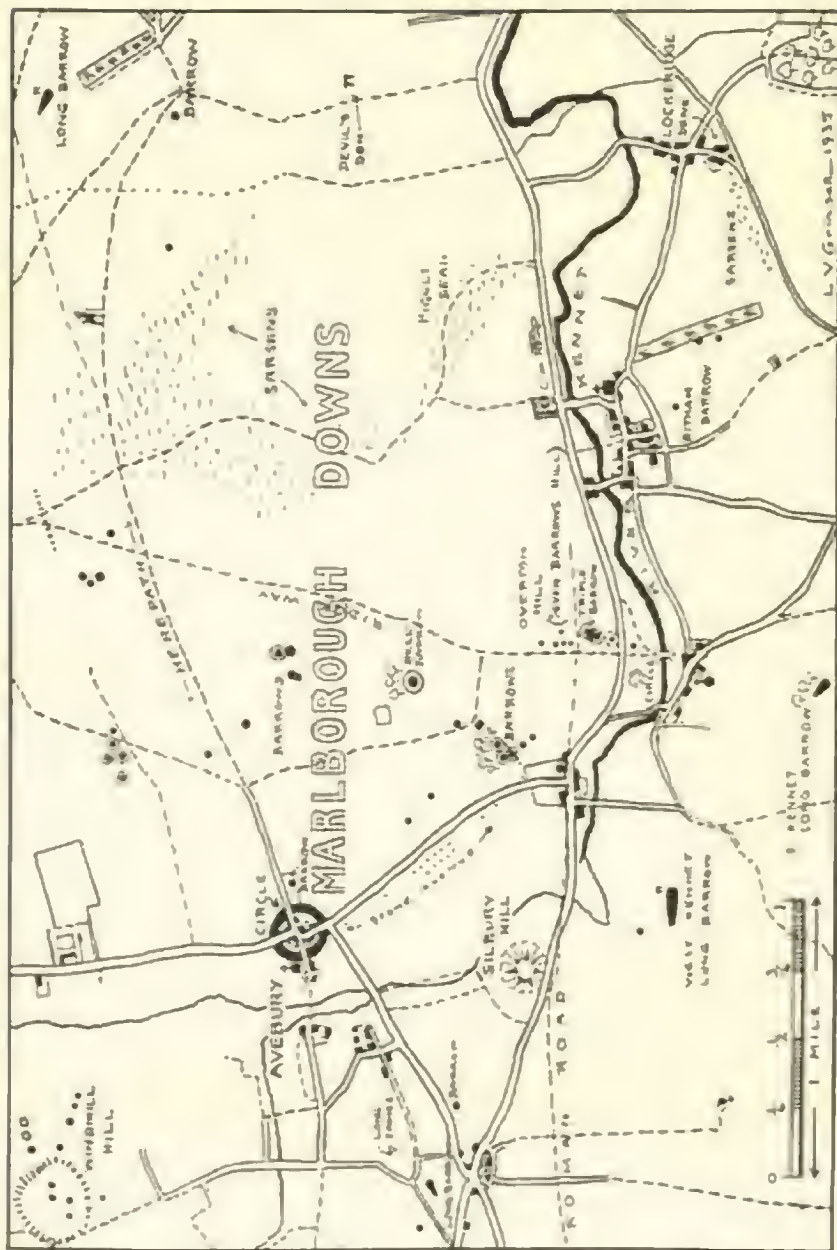
WE now come to a ramble over a delightful stretch of chalk downs through which the River Kennet flows, and along its course are a number of peaceful unspoilt Wiltshire villages. Into this paradise of prehistory no railway has yet been suffered to enter. The centre of the region is Avebury, which is best reached on a fine day by foot over the downs from Marlborough, Devizes, Swindon, or Pewsey, from each of which towns it is distant between six and nine miles. It may also be reached by occasional buses from Marlborough, Swindon, Calne or Devizes. The present writer prefers to approach Avebury from the clean, interesting and ancient town of Marlborough which provides well for the traveller.

It is not the purpose of this chapter to give a detailed account of the great stone circle at Avebury, which was in prehistoric times probably far more important than Stonehenge. It is enough to say that the monument originally consisted of an outer circle enclosing two inner circles placed side by side, as shown on the plan. It is not certain whether these inner circles were double or single, but they were probably double. The great circle is surrounded by a gigantic ditch and bank. At the south-east is a causeway from which a stone avenue known as the Kennet Avenue runs towards Overton Hill where it ends in the remains of a

stone circle known as the Sanctuary. The site of this stone circle was formerly occupied by a timber circle. This circle and many other megaliths near Avebury were destroyed about 1724 by one Farmer Green for the sake of 'a little dirty profit' as Stukeley observed. The Sanctuary has recently been excavated and partly restored by Mrs. Cunningham. Farmer Green was probably one of many offenders. In the words of Lord Avebury, 'the pretty little village of Abury, like some beautiful parasite, has grown up at the expense, and in the midst, of the ancient temple, and out of 650 great stones, not above 20 are still standing'. The stones at Avebury are all single standing stones or monoliths, and are much rougher in shape than the stones of Stonehenge. The stones of the Kennet Avenue are still in their original positions at one or two points, and Messrs. Keiller and Piggott are now (1934-6) discovering the post-holes of some of the other stones, as well as some of the stones themselves, which are being replaced in their original positions. Good lodging at Avebury may be obtained at Perry's Private Hotel or the Red Lion Inn.

The next site in order of importance in the vicinity is Silbury Hill, which is the largest artificial mound in Europe, being no less than 125 feet high and covering an area of $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres. The flat top of this hill is 100 feet in diameter and is big enough for Stonehenge to be placed thereon. The nature of Silbury Hill is uncertain. It is undoubtedly artificial; this has been proved by excavation. It may be a barrow, and this view seems to hold the field at the moment, although in shape it is quite different from the normal barrow, being much more conical. A Roman road makes a slight bend as it goes past Silbury Hill, proving that Silbury is earlier than the Roman road.

Stukeley's conjecture that Silbury is the burial-place of a king has only the pleasure of conception to recommend it. It has been said to be traditionally the burial-place of (1) a man in golden armour on horseback, or (2) a king in a golden coffin. Another tradition is that the Devil wanted to smother up Avebury with a shovelful of earth; 'but the priests saw him coming and set to work with their charms and incantations, and they fixed him while he was yet a nice way off,



9.—THE MOST IMPORTANT PREHISTORIC MONUMENTS ON THE MARLBOROUGH DOWNS

till at last he flings down his shovelful just where he was stood. And THAT'S Silbury'.¹

Between Avebury and Beekhampton are two stones known as the Long Stones, Adam and Eve, or the Devil's Coits, north of the road. South-west of these is a mutilated long barrow. There is a very fine group of barrows between here and North Down near the Wansdyke to the south-west. They include long barrows, and those of bowl, bell, and disc type, as well as one of the finest so-called pond-barrows in existence. There is also in this group a barrow intermediate in type between bell and disc.

From Morgan's Hill eastwards for several miles towards Savernake Forest is the bold entrenchment known as Wansdyke, along and near the course of which are several barrows. Among the more noteworthy is Adam's Grave, a conspicuous long barrow south of Wansdyke and near Alton Priors. Near Huish to the east is a group south of Gopher Wood. South of West Kennet is the West Kennet chambered long barrow, one of the longest in existence. At the eastern end a number of large sarsen stones may be observed. Those standing in a vertical position around the edge of the mound are the remains of a peristalith which originally enclosed the barrow. The larger recumbent slabs on the mound cover a passage leading to a burial-chamber. There is a fine tree-covered long barrow south of East Kennet: sarsens protruding at the south-eastern end may indicate the existence of a passage with burial-chambers beneath the mound.

North-west of Avebury is a group of round barrows in and near the neolithic camp on Windmill Hill. There used to be a fine chambered long barrow known as Mill Barrow near Winterbourne Monkton to the east, but this is now destroyed.

Some of the finest bell-barrows near Avebury are to be seen on Overton Hill, near the Ridgeway north of the Bath Road. The so-called triple-barrow immediately north of the road, shown on the air-photograph (Plate XV), is really two bell-barrows with one of bowl shape between them. The finest bell-barrow in this region is the very large one, covered with trees, nearly a mile north of the Bath Road and a short distance west of the Ridgeway. Early in the eighteenth

¹ *Folk-lore*, vol. 24, p. 324.



SILBURY HILL, THE LARGEST ARTIFICIAL MOUND IN EUROPE

Note the people standing on the top



century, some ancient human bones were dug up on Overton Hill, and out of them Dr. Toope of Marlborough made 'a noble medicine, that relieved many of my distressed neighbours'.

The downs between Avebury and Marlborough are strewn with greywethers or sarsen-stones. Concerning these it is fitting to quote Stukeley :

the whole country, hereabouts, is a solid body of chalk, covered with a most delicate turf. As this chalk matter hardened at creation, it spew'd out the most solid body of the stones, of greater specific gravity than itself; and assisted by the centrifuge power, owing to the rotation of the globe upon its axis, threw them upon its surface, where they now lie.

These sarsen-stones are now considered to be the remains of a capping of sandstone which formerly covered the chalk downs of north Wiltshire. Many of these stones were used by pre-historic man to build Avebury and the stonework in the long barrows. Nearly all the long barrows in north Wiltshire are chambered, suitable local stone being abundant. At dusk these stones impart a delightfully eerie atmosphere to the downs. They seem to speak of a forgotten civilization.

The best groups of sarsens are on Overton and Fyfield Downs north of the Bath Road. There are also some fine groups at Piggie Dene west of Fyfield, and Lockeridge Dene to the south. From White Hill near Lockeridge Dene a grand view of Silbury Hill and the River Kennet may be obtained.

On Manton Down north of Manton House, is a small chambered long barrow with a well-preserved burial-chamber at the eastern end. A mile to the south is a celebrated stone structure known as the Devil's Den, on a hill-slope overlooking Clatford Bottom. This is considered to be the remains of a long barrow, of which it is either the entrance or a burial-chamber. On Marlborough Common is a group of round barrows near and on the golf-course. There are some more near Rockley between Marlborough and Broad Hinton, and also on Hackpen Hill which stretches from a short distance north-east of Avebury to Barbury Castle which is probably an Early Iron Age camp.

At the point where the metalled road from Marlborough

to Broad Hinton descends Hackpen Hill, is a White Horse cut in the turf of the hillslope. There is another, considered to be recent, (? cut in 1804) on the hill south of Marlborough College. In the grounds of Marlborough College is a conical tree-covered mound like Silbury Hill but not so big. It has been known as Merlin's Barrow, and is thought to be Maerl's barrow from which Marlborough took its name. Its date and original purpose are unknown.

Summing up this review of barrows around Avebury, we are impressed by two important facts: the abundance of chambered long barrows, and the scarcity of disc-barrows; in other words, the abundance of barrows of early type, and the scarcity of the disc-barrows which appear to be of the latest type. There is little doubt that the civilization represented by the stone circles and barrows in the Avebury district is earlier than that of the Stonehenge district.

In this brief chapter we have glanced only at the more important sites in this beautiful and archaeologically prolific piece of country. Many of the less important sites are marked on the accompanying map; but it is possible that few of my readers will be able to traverse these downs without finding fresh footprints of our prehistoric past at almost every visit; for the rambler who goes to the Marlborough Downs once is likely to repeat his visit many times.

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THE GOPHER WOOD GROUP, WILTS. FROM THE AIR



"THE SANCTUARY" AND HARROWS ON OVERTON HILL, WILTS.
FROM THE AIR



MAPS :

O.S. Map of Neolithic Wessex.

O.S., 1-inch Popular Edition. Sheet 112.

6-inch O.S. Wiltshire, 28 NW., NE., SW. and SE. (Marlborough Downs). 27 SE. (The North Down group).

CHAPTER VIII

WAYLAND'S SMITHY AND THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS

‘But enough of that—here are we at Wayland Smith’s forge-door.’

‘You jest, my little friend,’ said Tressilian; ‘there is nothing but a bare moor, and that ring of stones, with a great one in the midst, like a Cornish harrow.’

‘Ay, and that great flat stone in the midst, which lies across the top of these uprights,’ said the boy, ‘is Wayland Smith’s counter, that you must tell down your money upon.’

SCOTT, *Kenilworth*, chapter 10

THE Berkshire Downs are situated some ten or twelve miles north-east of the Marlborough Downs described in the last chapter. The literary and historical associations of the region covered by this chapter are numerous and important. The downs near Uffington formed the setting for the first two chapters of *Tom Bracken’s Schooldays* and for all of *The Scouring of the White Horse* by the same writer (Thomas Hughes), a memorial brass to whom is in Uffington Church. The legend of Wayland the Smith is woven into *Kenilworth* by Sir Walter Scott. The White Horse Vale is the subject of G. K. Chesterton’s *Ballad of the White Horse*.

The whole region has many associations with King Alfred who was born at Wantage and whose statue adorns the market-place of that town. The site of the Battle of Ashdown, in which Alfred was joint victor against the Danes, was somewhere on the Berkshire Downs. With such historical, literary, and romantic associations, this region cannot fail to be of absorbing interest. This chapter will be confined to an account of the country between Ashbury and Kingston Lisle, extending to the south as far as the Lambourn Downs.



WAYLAND'S SMITH, DEERS



The district under consideration contains material for several days if not weeks of rambling. The Rambler is recommended to walk from west to east if he goes along the Ridgeway which runs through the whole area, because the wind is generally westerly and it is best for the walker to have the wind behind him.

Some of the old-world villages hereabouts have excellent inns; those at Ashbury (The Rose and Crown), Woolstone (The White Horse) and Kingston Lisle (The Plough) are under the control of the Peoples' Refreshment House Association and can all be recommended.

Ashbury is a good starting-point for a wonderful walk. After lunching at the Rose and Crown, the Rambler should climb the hill to the south until he comes to the hilltop track known as the Ridgeway, or in the vernacular 'The Rudge'. A walk of nearly a mile to the east along this Ridgeway leads to a clump of trees, beneath which is the celebrated Wayland's Smithy, or Wayland Smith's Cave. It consists of a rather low mound, at present of an oval shape but probably originally rectangular. At the south-east end of this mound is a heap of stones, most of which look, as Aubrey said in the seventeenth century, as if they had been 'tumbled out of a cart'. A closer inspection of the stones shows quite clearly that most of them are standing upright and are arranged in the form of a cross. The long arm of the cross is really a long passage which leads to the remains of three burial-chambers forming the three shorter arms of the cross. Some skeletons were found in the burial-chambers in 1919. The monument is therefore a long barrow of the 'true passage-grave' type, with an entrance and passage leading to burial-chambers. One of the burial-chambers has the capstone still in place. There is a very old tradition that if a groat were placed on this slab and a horse left to be shod, an invisible blacksmith would shoe the horse and take the groat. This blacksmith was Wayland the Smith. The legend is an early Germanic one. Some iron currency-bars of the Celtic period were found near the capstone already mentioned, in 1919.

There are several other traditions associated with Wayland's Smithy. A golden coffin is said to be buried near-by, and a tradition has been recorded of an underground passage leading

from the cave (the local name for the burial-chamber with the capstone) to a spot near Ashbury. A mile north of Ashbury is a spot called Snivelling Corner. It is said that in days gone by, Wayland the Smith wanted some nails, so he sent his favourite imp, Flibbertigibbet, to the village of Ashbury to get the nails. Instead of coming straight back Flibbertigibbet went birds' nesting with some of the villagers. After an impatient wait, Wayland saw his imp birds' nesting and in his anger threw a stone boulder at him. On this boulder, still to be seen at Snivelling Corner, is supposed to be the mark of the heel of Flibbertigibbet where the stone hit him, causing him to go away from the corner snivelling—hence Snivelling Corner.

Before leaving what has been described as the most famous of all long burrows, the reader is recommended to examine the inner surfaces of the stones of the passage and burial-chambers. As Mr. A. D. Passmore has pointed out, the inner surfaces of some of these stones seem to be smoother than the outer surfaces—a remark that may apply to some other long barrows. Dr. Oscar Montelius, a famous Scandinavian antiquary, wrote that the inner surfaces of the stones of chambered barrows in Scandinavia tend to be smoother than the outer surfaces.

The walker should now continue going along the 'Rudge' eastwards towards the fine Early Iron Age Camp known as Uffington Castle. About a mile south of the castle, and visible on the right of the walker, is a hump on the skyline. This is 'Idlebush Barrow' or 'Idle Tump', which will be more fully described later. The fine entrance on the west side of Uffington Castle is worth seeing. Just below it on the north is the White Horse—the most famous and perhaps the earliest of all White Horses, and the one that was the subject of a number of 'scourings' from time immemorial until 1857. The 1857 scouring is graphically described in Thomas Hughes' fine book *The Scouring of the White Horse* which also refers to some of the earlier scourings. The largecombe or valley beneath the horse is known as the Horse's Manger.

It is considered lucky to wish when standing in the horse's eye, and a wish made in this position is supposed to come true. The White Horse is considered to be about 200 B.C.,



10.—THE MOST IMPORTANT ANTIQUITIES ON THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS

from its resemblance to the conventional drawings of a horse on some early British coins of that period.

East of Uffington Castle are two irregular oval or long mounds, which yielded a large number of skeletons believed to be Roman when opened in the middle of the nineteenth century.

Just below the White Horse is a large flat-topped mound known as 'Dragon's Mount' or 'Dragon Hill'. It is here that St. George, or 'King Jaarge' is supposed to have slain the dragon. The place where the dragon's blood trickled down is marked by a patch of bare chalk where no grass will grow—so poisonous was the blood of the dragon. Dragon Hill was at one time considered to be the burial-place of one Uter Pendragon. It is now believed to be a natural knoll.

A walk of another half-mile eastwards along the 'Rudge' brings us to a ploughed field on the right or south of the rudge. In this field may still be clearly seen the remains of a hilltop camp, which was probably originally similar to that at Uffington. The Saxon land charters mention one or two barrows south of Rams Hill, but these I have not yet been able to locate. Here's work for an enthusiast!

A walk of another half-mile along the Ridgeway leads to Blowingstone Hill and a metalled road leading off the downs northwards into the Vale. On the right or east of this road, and just south of its juncture with the Icknield Way, is the celebrated Blowing Stone, otherwise known as King Alfred's Bugle-horn from the tradition that he blew through it to summon the Saxons when he wanted to fight the Danes. Originally the Blowing Stone was on top of the hill—whether White Horse Hill or Blowing Stone Hill does not appear to be known. By paying a small fee, most of which goes to charity, the rambler may obtain the key to the stone from the cottage (which is the remains of the Blowing Stone public house). The caretaker then unlocks the wooden lid over the hole in the stone, and the walker is invited to blow through it. After a few unsuccessful tries the novice can soon acquire the knack of making a loud report emanate from the hole in the stone. The noise is said to be heard for a distance of three miles; and when the stone was on top of the hill the noise would have carried much farther. The hole

in the stone is one of several which are natural and are frequently found in sandstone blocks of this kind. They occur in some of the stones forming Wayland's Smithy. Postcard-photographs of the Blowing Stone and also of the White Horse are obtainable from the cottage by the Blowing Stone.

A walk of another half-mile northwards, past the beautiful grounds of Kingston Lisle House, turning to the right by the church, leads to 'The Plough', where excellent meals may be obtained in pleasant surroundings. A few hundred yards north of 'The Plough', and east of the road, is a large conical mound covered with trees. This is a round barrow of bowl-shape. Some authorities have thought it to be Roman, and Fawler, near where it is situated, is derived from *Fugiflora*, Latin for a variegated floor or tessellated pavement.

It remains to describe a few sites south of the main ridge-way. There are a number of hill-spurs running southwards, along which are tracks which are at right-angles to the ridge-way. The most westerly of these, in the region under review, is the continuation of Idstone Borstall, which leads towards the gorgeous woods of Ashdown Park and to Alfred's Castle and some barrows near it. Alfred's Castle is a small but very impressive camp, and in the rabbit-scrapes hereabouts are many potsherds and humanly chipped flint flakes. Anhrey described the castle as having been badly mutilated through too much digging of 'the sarsden stones to build my Lord Craven's House'. North of Alfred's Castle is a possible barrow, oval in shape, rather mutilated. South of Swinley Copse, half a mile south-west of the castle, are two more barrows. But the best ones are a short distance farther south, on Idstone Down, known as 'The Three Barrows'. These are three well-formed bowl-barrows in a good state of preservation. On the downs and especially in the valleys or coombes near here are a very large number of sarsen-stones. It was probably from these that the stones were selected for building Wayland's Smithy.

South of Uffington Castle is another spur, with a hilltop track running southwards. West of the track, about a mile south of Uffington Castle, is the tump known as Idlebush Barrow. It may have been so named because, about 1800,

some trees were planted on it which would not grow on account of the bleak situation. A few yards south of Idle-bush Barrow is a small but well-formed disc-barrow.

The metalled road on Blowingstone Hill leads southwards towards the Lambourn Seven Barrows, which are situated two and a half miles south of the ridgeway on Blowingstone Hill. The Seven Barrows on Lambourn Downs are the best group in Berkshire. They really consist of more than twenty examples, all of which are circular. They are all probably of the Bronze Age. The group are well seen in the beautiful air-photograph taken by Major Allen (Plate XVII).

In the foreground of the photograph is a bell-barrow, rather distorted in the photo. North of this is a tiny ring-barrow or saucer-barrow, and north of this but still south of the road are two bowl-barrows and a possible bell-barrow in the centre. The narrow ring round it is the remains of a trench and bank thrown up about a century ago when the mound was planted with trees.

North of the road are the best barrows. They are arranged in two rows. The top row includes, from left to right, a large disc- or saucer-barrow, a bowl-barrow, another bowl-barrow with a tiny one adjoining on the south, a twin-barrow with the mounds overlapping, and another bowl-barrow. The lower row consists of a fine twin, a bowl-barrow, another bowl-barrow surrounded by a tree-planting earthenbank, and a very fine disc. Some of these barrows were opened about 1850 by Rev. John Wilson and Mr. E. Martin Atkins of Kingston Lisle, and the finds, which include some very large urns, are now in the British Museum. Unfortunately, Wilson and Atkins did not keep an accurate record of what they found in each barrow, and so it might have been better if their excavations had never been undertaken. Still they were interested in antiquities and did some good work. Atkins was a prominent member of the committee for the Scouring of the White Horse in 1857, and undertook a good deal of excavations in the neighbourhood, some of which were done more thoroughly and were better recorded than those among the Seven Barrows. He lived at Kingston Lisle House, and died in 1859. In Kingston Lisle Church is a stained glass window in his memory.



'THE SEVEN BARROWS', LANROUEN, HERKS



This chapter may fittingly conclude with a quotation of part of a poem on White Horse Hill written by Job Cork, a shepherd who spent most or all of his life in the neighbourhood.

. . . ' Ah Zur, I can remember well
The stories the old voke do tell—
Upon this hill which here is seen
Many a battle there have been.

' If it is true as I heard zay
King Gauge did here the dragon slay,
And down below on yonder hill
They buried him as I heard tell.

' If you along the Rudgeway go
About a mile for aught I know
There Wayland's Cave then you may see
Surrounded by a clump of trees. . . '

Addendum.

Since this chapter was written, the writer has had the good fortune to discover a chambered long barrow slightly north-west of the Lambourn Seven Barrows. The site has been inserted on the map accompanying this chapter. The barrow is at the southern end of the wood about 300 yards north of Seven Barrows Farm.

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MAPS :

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10 NW. (Wayland's Smithy) and NE.

10 SW. ; 10 SE. (Lambourn Seven Barrows).

20 NW. and NE.

CHAPTER IX

THE NEW FOREST

It was seen in Chapter V that there is an important concentration of long barrows on Cranborne Chase, notably between Woodyates and Tollard Royal, and especially near the Gussages. These long barrows are on a range of chalk downs west of the Avon. The region we have now to review is east of the Avon, and is totally devoid of any long barrows although it contains about 150 of the round type. It appears that the New Forest, which is on sandy soil, was not inhabited to any extent, if at all, in the Neolithic period, probably partly on account of the scarcity of native flint for making implements.

The New Forest, as all who know it are aware, is a region of infinite beauty at all seasons of the year, especially in spring and autumn. Most of the ancient barrows are in the south-eastern part of the forest, between Brockenhurst and Beaulieu, and this part of the forest also contains some of the best beauty spots; the region around Beaulieu will therefore be selected for study in this chapter.

The cheerful-looking old-world town of Brockenhurst is an excellent starting-point for a New Forest Ramble, and contains some good hotels and cafés.

Rather more than a mile south of Brockenhurst is Setley Plain, on which are some of the most interesting barrows in the forest. They include four examples which are intermediate in type between bell and disc. Two of these are in the form of a twin, with the outer banks and ditches overlapping. On the hill to the south-east of the twin is a single barrow of the same type, and south of the road from Burley to Boldre is another, not far from the New Inn. On Sway Common west of the railway-line is a group of barrows, including a very large, high and impressive bell-barrow; this is the finest bell-barrow in the forest.

The Setley Plain barrows were opened many years ago rather unscientifically, when they appear to have yielded evidence of cremation, which is almost invariably found in barrows of this kind. One of the small barrows on Sway Common yielded a Bronze Age urn inverted over burnt human bones.

Nearly two miles to the south-east is Buckland Rings, the finest camp in the New Forest. It probably belongs to the Early Iron Age.

Although the rarest types of barrow are in the Setley Plain area, the largest groups of forest barrows are on Beaulieu



11.—A BARROW, INTERMEDIATE BETWEEN BELL AND DISC TYPES, EAST OF BEAULIEU HILL TOP

~ Mound.	~ ~ Berm.
~ ~ Ditch.	~ ~ Outer bank.

Heath. Beaulieu Heath is divided into two parts, south-west and north-east.

The south-west part of Beaulieu Heath may be reached along a metalled road from Brockenhurst, or else along some much smaller secondary roads through Boldre and Pilley Bailey. The latter is the preferable route for the Rambler. The track from Pilley Bailey northwards over the western fringe of the heath passes near several large round barrows, some of which, having flattish tops, approach the platform type but are not well-marked examples thereof. Some of them are covered with bracken or trees. Among the more notable is Pudding Barrow on the extreme north-west corner

of the heath. There are also some good ones between Pudding Barrow and Hatchet Pond, and there are two more examples immediately south of the metalled road to the north, leading to Hatchet Gate.

Hatchet Pond is of singular beauty. It is supposed to be on the site of a group of old marl-pits which have become filled with water and united into one pond. Near-by is an old house known as Hatchet Mill, part of which is used as a good café. There are a few large bowl-barrows south of Hatchet Pond and east of the road to Lymington.

The road eastwards from Hatchet Gate leads to Beaulieu about a mile distant, with the ruins of its famous abbey which was founded by King John. The name Beaulieu testifies to the great beauty of the spot especially near the Beaulieu River. The Montagu Arms at Beaulieu is a very high-class hotel.

A mile to the north-east is the Hill Top, where begins Beaulieu Hill Top Heath, on which is a good sprinkling of barrows. There are two very fine bell-disc intermediate types close together immediately south of the road to Fawley. One or two prominent apparent barrows to the north are either rifle-butts or else barrows converted into them. There is a good group of bowl-barrows, with one possible bell among them, near Stonyford Pond; there are one or two old rifle-butts in the vicinity as well. Among the most famous New Forest tumuli are those which stand out conspicuously to the west of the road between Beaulieu Hill Top and Dibden Purlieu. This group comprises a central twin-barrow consisting of two confluent round barrows, on each side of which is a large round barrow approaching the bell shape. The ditches of these barrows are remarkably well-preserved.

On the eastern fringe of Hill Top Heath is a long straight entrenchment, on the eastern side of which are no less than seven or eight barrows, one of which appears to be a tiny bell. The others are all bowls.

Among the delightful walks in the Beaulieu area is that from Ladycross House near Pudding Barrow northwards through Denny Lodge woods and Denny Lodge to Matley Passage and Beaulieu Road Station, between which places are several round barrows. Refreshments may be obtained

at the Beaulieu Road Hotel by the station. It is worth mention that the railway line between Southampton and Lymington twists and turns through the forest to avoid spoiling the beauty-spots. This course was followed largely through the influence of one Castleman, a director of the railway with a great love of the forest, and the line used to be known as Castleman's corkscrew. A mile north of Beaulieu Road station is the charming Beaulieu River.

Let us conclude this chapter with a delightful quotation from Wise's book on the New Forest :

The best advice which I can give to see the Forest is to follow the course of one of its streams, and make it your friend and companion, and go wherever it goes. It will be sure to take you through the greenest valleys, and past the thickest woods, and under the largest trees. No step along with it is ever lost, for it never goes out of its way but in search of some fresh beauty.¹

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MAPS :

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O.S. : 1-inch *Popular Edition*, Sheets 131 and 132.

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O.S. : 6-inch *Hants*, 73 SW. (Hill Top Heath), 80 NW. (Setley Plain), 80 NE. (Hatchet Pond area) and 80 SW. (Shirley Holms).

*Specially recommended.

†Specially recommended, but scarce and expensive.

¹ J. R. Wise : *The New Forest*, chapter 2.

CHAPTER X

BOW HILL AND THE WEST SUSSEX DOWNS

Humanity was thick enough here in an earlier day—the humanity which tunnelled for flint in the chalk of Stoke Down, and drew the long lines of ‘covered ways’ across Bow Hill, and built the camp upon the ridge, and piled up the great barrows on the brow, where (so the tale goes) lie certain kings that fell in battle hereabout in 900.—A. H. ALLCROFT, *Downland Pathways*, 2nd Edition, p. 271

ON the west of the road between Chichester and Midhurst is a bold range of rugged and rolling downs, which is among the finest stretches of chalk downs in existence. It is speckled with hawthorns and tufts of gorse, and scarred with the footprints of our ancestors, in the form of harrows, flint-mines, entrenchments, and other vestiges.

The best centre for exploring these downs is Chichester, but Midhurst is nearly as good. A number of delightful old-world Sussex villages are scattered between Midhurst and Chichester, and any of these villages is also a good centre for exploring these hills. Among the prettiest of these villages is Singleton with its thatched cottages and with the Lavant stream running through the street by the roadside. It was while staying at Singleton that William Cobbett wrote: ‘. . . as to these villages in the South Downs, they are beautiful to behold. . . . The houses are good and warm; and the gardens some of the very best that I have seen in England’. The Chichester–Midhurst road is well served by Southdown buses, and the best point to alight for Bow Hill is Binderton House just north of Lavant. An alternative way is to walk or go by bus from Chichester to East Ashling and walk due northwards to West Stoke and Stoke Down (east).

West of Stoke Clump is a ditched bowl-barrow near an

entrenchment, north of which are the shafts of flint-mines of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. These flint-mines are similar to the better-known ones at Cissbury, Sussex, and Brandon, Norfolk. On the western slope of this hill is another earthwork, and on the western spur of Stoke Down is a group of small bowl-barrows, which revealed a probable Saxon date when opened in the nineteenth century. There is reason to believe that at one time this group of small grave-mounds was much more extensive than at present.

On the north-east of this spur of Stoke Down is Kingley Vale, containing its celebrated grove of yew trees. On Bow Hill, beyond, are the four enormous barrows, consisting of two bowls and two bells, known as the Devil's Humps. These have been opened and belong to the Early Bronze Age, about 1500 B.C. Between the mounds are a series of three or four little pits, each enclosed in a circular bank or lip of earth. These appear to be contemporary with the barrows.

South-west of the four barrows is a fine entrenchment consisting of a ditch and bank, and another earthwork exists on the hill-slope to the north-west. The narrow bank running the whole length of the barrows but a few yards to the north-west is comparatively modern.

Nearly a mile to the west of the Four Barrows, on the western spur of Bow Hill, and slightly on the northern slope thereof, is a very fine twin bell-barrow, consisting of two large mounds placed on a platform enclosed in an oval ditch. Twin-barrows are a great rarity outside of Salisbury Plain, and represent the zenith of barrow-architecture. The discovery of rare barrow-types such as this example, which was first recognized as such by the writer, gives a great thrill to barrow-hunting.

A few hundred yards to the north of the Devil's Humps are some earthworks of various kinds, beyond which are two small long barrows on Stoughton Down. Between them is a possible round barrow which is not marked on the Ordnance Maps. On Lambleton Hill to the west are four more small bowl-barrows which are not marked on the maps.

A descent of Lambleton Hill on the north-west side brings the rambler to a track, and if he continues walking north-west, past Wildham Barn, he will come to East Marden, and

in another half-mile he will reach Long Lane. A walk of a mile westwards along Long Lane brings the Rambler to Telegraph Hill, and on the south of the road is a very fine long barrow, discovered by the writer, known as Solomon's or Baverse's Thumb. A walk along Telegraph Hill through a delightful wood leads to Compton, where the Rambler may be able to get one of the rather infrequent buses back to Chichester.

Another invigorating walk in this part of the downs is along the Ridgeway east and west of the Cocking Gap. This may easily be approached by bus from Midhurst, Chichester or Singleton.

A walk westwards from Cocking Gap leads over Cocking Downs, on which is a platform-shaped barrow, towards Linch Down, on the western slope of which is a barrow not marked on the maps. West of Linch Down is Didling Hill, where is a round barrow enclosed in a square earthwork of unusual type. A track to the south-west leads to Monkton Down, and slightly north-west of Monkton House is the finest group of tumuli in Sussex—'The Devil's Jumps'. These consist of six enormous bell-barrows arranged in a line. That at the south-east is nearly destroyed, but the others are in fairly good condition though they are rather covered by trees. It is unfortunate that this fine group is obscured by thick woods.

On the west may be seen an entrenchment mounting Pen Hill towards Beacon Hill on which is a camp around which may be found quantities of ancient pottery, probably like the camp of Early Iron Age date.

The track from Cocking Gap eastwards leads over Manor-farm down to Heyshott Downs, where the track is bordered on the south by woods. On the eastern part of Heyshott Downs is a fine group of about ten bowl-shaped barrows, one of which is much larger than the others. Some of the smaller ones have had their tops removed and must not be mistaken for ring-barrows. Farther eastwards is Graffham Down, where are a few barrows including two large ones placed close together. A track south-eastwards from Graffham Down through Tegleaze woods leads to Waltham Down, where is a group of five large round barrows—four bowls

and one bell. The ramhler is not advised to look for the Waltham Down group unless he is armed with a 6-inch O.S. map, as they are not very easy to locate with a map on a smaller scale. On Heyshott and Graffham Downs, near the barrows are a number of entrenchments or 'covered ways' running from north to south over the downs.

It remains to add a little general information about this area. Richard Cobden, the eminent Free-Trade statesman, was born at Heyshott, and Cardinal Manning in his early manhood held a curacy hereabouts. East of Bow Hill and south of Heyshott Downs is glorious Goodwood, and the fine Early Iron Age hill-fort known as the Trundle, which is placed on an earlier camp of Neolithic times. Aaron's golden calf is said to be buried on this hill. The road on the southern border of the Racecourse is on the site of an early track known as the Harroway.

Good centres for lodging and refreshments in this part of the country are at Midhurst and Chichester. Singleton is the prettiest and among the best centres, and the Drove Hotel in the village is recommended. Refreshments may also be obtained at the inns at Cocking, Compton, Stoughton and elsewhere. The inn at Stoughton is very convenient for Bow Hill.

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A BARROW ON HOW HILL, SUSSEX. DURING EXCAVATION IN
1933



A BARROW ON WINDOVER HILL, SUSSEX



CHAPTER XI

ALFRISTON AND THE EAST SUSSEX DOWNS

On no part of the South Downs is there more exquisite entertainment for the antiquary or more delicious food for the epicure. Those beautiful sepulchral monuments, denominated barrows, or tumuli, with which the downs, in every direction, are more or less graced, are in this district numerous and of various forms and dimensions.

HORSFIELD on Alfriston, in his *History of Lewes*, II, p. 1

THE fine stretch of chalk downs described in this chapter forms one of the most charming regions in Sussex, and that is high praise. Almost in the centre of the downs of East Sussex, nestling between two ranges of rolling downs, divided by the River Cuckmere, is the lovely ancient village of Alfriston, with its early Market Cross, the two old inns (the Market Cross and the Star), the fine church which is known as the Cathedral of the Downs, the Old Clergy House, part of which is open to the public, and many other places of interest and beauty. The Alfriston area has been well said to contain the longest man, the smallest church (Lullington—the remains of a larger edifice) and the oldest inn (The Star) in Sussex. The Wilmington Giant, about two miles east of Alfriston, is the world's largest representation of the human figure.

It is a good plan to start a peregrination from Seaford (pronounced *Seaford*, not *Seaf'rd*), and to walk from there to Alfriston. A road leads from Seaford (near the railway station and bus terminus) past East Blatchington windmill across the golf-course, on to a typical downland ridgeway along which are sprinkled a few tumuli. After passing a few small ones just north of the golf-course, the Rambler should continue walking due northwards along the ridgeway from which grand views are obtainable, and after another half-mile he will come to a large mound with a hollow in the centre, which is the meeting point of barbed-wire fences.

This barrow is called Five Lords' Burgh, because it used to be on the boundary of five parishes. It is still on the boundary of four. A walk of another half-mile northwards leads to two large bowl-barrows close together. On the west of this ridgeway may be seen two very large bowl-barrows placed on top of a hill. These are known as the Lord's Burghs. A walk of another mile, keeping well to the north and taking care not to bear to the right along any of the tributary tracks, leads the Rambler to the top of Firle Beacon. This hill is crowned by a large bowl-barrow, and a short distance to the west is one of the long shape. A silver coffin is supposed to be buried on Firle Hill, and one of the barrows here is said to be the resting-place of the giant of Firle Beacon. Beneath Firle Beacon is the beautiful Firle Park in the grounds of which is Firle Place, the seat of the Gage family. The magnificent alabaster effigy and tomb of Sir John Gage (Constable of the Tower of London, died 1557) is in Firle Church.

From Firle Beacon it is a wonderful walk south-eastwards along a ridgeway overlooking the Weald, for a distance of about three miles, to the village of Alfriston. Along this ridgeway there are no fewer than 45 or 50 tumuli, nearly all round ones, but there are two fine long barrows at the Alfriston end of the track. One of these is on the left of the ridgeway going towards Alfriston, just above Winton Chalk Pit and about three hundred yards north of the track down the hill-slope into the village. The other and larger long barrow is on the right of the same ridgeway and three hundred yards past the previous long barrow, going towards Alfriston. This barrow is about 55 yards long and is flanked by deep ditches, as is usual with long barrows on the chalk downs.

Alfriston may now be reached, for a well-needed meal after this glorious walk, by two alternative routes, either by descending the hill by taking the track to the left or east, opposite the larger long barrow (which is called Long Burgh), or else by continuing along the ridgeway for another few hundred yards and turning to the left at the next turning. The latter track enters Alfriston just by the Star Inn, where the visitor is strongly advised to have his meal. It is a fine old half-timbered building.

The beauty and quaintness of this ancient village have

already been indicated; and the Rambler will certainly want to linger here.

During the long days of midsummer it is a good plan to walk from Seaford to Alfriston by the route described, and after having tea at the Star to walk back to Seaford by the road leading southwards on the west of the River Cuckmere. Incidentally I have frequently observed the most glorious sunsets when in the Cuckmere valley. These can be well seen by taking the road south-westwards leading up to High and Over, and so to Seaford.

The walk between Seaford and Alfriston by the road over High and Over is, however, best taken by starting at Seaford and going along Hindover and Alfriston roads. The climb is so gradual as hardly to be noticeable; but in the course of the walk of nearly three miles, over 300 feet are ascended. As the Rambler reaches the top of the hill he is encountered, almost without any warning, by a panoramic view of East Sussex, with the silvery Cuckmere winding its way gracefully towards the sea at Cuckmere Haven. There is a very steep drop from the top of the hill down to the river. On a northern spur near the top of High and Over is a large bowl-barrow, slightly south of which is a White Horse carved on the escarpment of the chalk downs. This horse is of no antiquity, having been made in 1924; another horse, now nearly or entirely obliterated, was made nearby about 1838.

It remains to indicate one or two other walks which should be taken from Alfriston.

The road northwards past the Market Cross Inn and on the left of the Cross leads towards Winton. The house and garden known as Sanctuary, slightly west of the handful of cottages known as Winton, stands on the site of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, many of the grave-goods from which are in Lewes Museum. A footpath northwards past the Sanctuary leads to Berwick Church; in the churchyard here is a large mound which some have considered to be a barrow. It is surmounted by a War Memorial. A few hundred yards east of Berwick Church is Drusilla's famous tea-rooms. Berwick is pronounced *Burwick*, not *Berrick*.

Starting again from Alfriston, a narrow lane leads from the

main or High Street to the Church, situated on the village green known as the Tye. Alfriston Church is not without its legend. The tradition is that originally it was intended to build the church on a piece of ground known as Savyne Croft, west of the High Street. The building was begun, but during each night the stones were removed and placed, by supernatural agency, in the neighbouring field known as the Tye.

Then one day at dawn a wise man walking abroad saw four oxen lying asleep in the Tye, their rumps together, and resembling, as they lay, the form of a Greek cross. At once the miracle of the stones stood revealed. Heaven had interposed to prevent the building from being erected in the Savyne Croft, and had thus drawn the attention of the builders to the Tye. Forthwith the first site was abandoned, and on the spot where the oxen had been found sleeping was raised the handsome cruciform church called the Cathedral of the South Downs.¹

This tradition has been noted of other churches (see the chapters on Dartmoor and the Cotswolds in this book). On no account should the rumbler miss the Old Clergy House near the church.

A track from Alfriston over the Cuckmere River and past Lullington Church leads to a road up Windover Hill, on which is a probable long barrow, near which is a very large and fine round barrow with a ditch round it. On the escarpment to the north is carved the celebrated Long Man of Wilmington, or Wilmington Giant, who, as a writer has truly observed, is especially long in disclosing his identity and age. On the hill to the east are a few more barrows, and on the northern escarpment overlooking Wilmington is a long barrow known as the Hunter's Burgh. The return to Alfriston may be made by descending the hill by the track past the Hunter's Burgh, and turning westwards past Wilmington Priory, and then along the road south-westwards over the hill near Lullington Church and so entering the village of Alfriston. Those who walk from Alfriston over Windover Hill to Jevington will be rewarded by the sight of a particularly fine series of lynchets or ancient cultivation-terraces east of Jevington,

¹ Arthur Beckett. *The Spirit of the Downs*.

and between Jevington and Eastbourne are some very fine large bowl-barrows.

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CHAPTER XII

MEDWAY MEGALITHS

Cits cotihom is of foure flat stones, one of thuru standing upright in the middle of 2 other, inclosing the edge sides of the first and the fourth layd flat aloft the other three ; . . . menne may stand on eyther side of the middle stone in time of storme or tempest, safe from wind and rayne, being defended with the bredth of the stones, as having one at their backes, one on eyther side, and the fourth over their heads.—*Stow's Chronicle*, 1590

THE celebrated Kit's Coty is one of a group of megalithic remains on each side of the Medway valley between Rochester and Maidstone. The monuments are picturesquely situated in a chequer work of woods and meadows near the ancient Pilgrims' Way, and just below the North Downs.

The locality contains enough material for several rambles, but the most important sites, which are the Coldrum and Addington long barrows and Kit's Coty, can be got into a day's ramble. It is proposed to work from west to east, describing the places of interest as they occur, in order that the Rambler may plan his own rambles and pick and choose whichever sites take his fancy.

The best starting-points are Wrotham (pronounced Rootham) and Wrotham Heath. Ightham to the south-west was the home of the late Benjamin Harrison, the great champion of eoliths, many of which have been found on the plateau above the North Downs. The Pilgrims' Way runs near the foot of the downs from Wrotham north-eastwards. On the east side of the road between Trottscliffe (pronounced locally Trosley) and Wrotham Heath, at a height of 280 feet, marked on the map, is a large round barrow, now in private grounds.

From Wrotham Heath north-eastwards is a road through Addington Park towards Addington Place. Nearly opposite

the latter, north of the road and west of a wood, is the megalith known as the Chestnuts. This consists of a tumbled heap of large sarsens beneath a small clump of trees. It has been in a ruinous condition at least since 1754, but is probably the remains of a burial-chamber.

The road towards Addington cuts through the remains of a fine chambered long barrow a few yards south-east of the Chestnuts. At first sight this monument may appear to be nothing more than a few stones scattered at random over the land: but the rambler who studies the stones carefully will observe that they are nearly all arranged in two parallel rows between which is the mound, at the north-east end of which is the burial-chamber or entrance or both. It should be noted that the stones of this barrow are on both sides of the road. This megalith was excavated with little result by Thomas Wright about the middle of the nineteenth century. It is interesting to note that he obtained unsolicited digging assistance from a local resident who dreamed that he would find a crock of gold therein, but whose enthusiasm waned after a while. This site, like several others described in this chapter, is marked on most maps as a stone circle. It is correctly marked as a burial-chamber on the recently published 1-inch O.S. Fifth Relief Edition map.

From the cross-roads north of the Addington sites a green track leads through Ryarsh Wood to the Coldrum sites. About five prostrate sarsens in a line running north and south may be seen in the field south of Coldrum Farm. There are also one or two other stones east of this line. They are marked on the 6-inch O.S. map (1907 Revision) as 'Stone Circle' which they certainly are not. If they are the remains of any prehistoric monument, which is rather doubtful, they may have formed a stone row.

On the west of the track towards the Pilgrims' Way, and a few yards north of Coldrum Farm, is a fine chambered long barrow marked on most maps as a stone circle. It is the finest and most complete of the Medway megaliths. The rectangular mound, which is shorter than is usual in long barrows, is placed with its long axis east and west, and is bordered by a peristalith of sarsens which go round all four sides. Placed in a prominent situation at the eastern end is a large stone

structure, which is the remains of the burial-chamber. This burial-chamber was excavated in 1910 by F. J. Bennett, E. W. Filkins and others. They found in it the remains of at least 22 skeletons as well as fragments of pottery and a flint saw. One of these fragments of pottery is in Maidstone Museum which also contains a model of the monument. According to Sir A. Keith, the human bones suggest that the 22 skeletons were all related if not of one family, and the ages ranged from newly-born children to old men and women. These are thought to be the primary burials and they are of long barrow type.

One or two other finds have been made at other times at the Coldrum site. During the nineteenth century a skeleton was found in the burial-chamber, and was buried in Meopham churchyard: whereupon the vicar of Trottiscliffe in which the barrow is situated complained that the vicar of Meopham had robbed him of his oldest parishioner! In 1922 another skull was found by E. W. Filkins in the burial-chamber, in which at least 24 people were therefore buried.

All these human bones tended to be in a broken and fragmentary condition. This may denote previous disturbance: but it is more likely to indicate that the skeletons were exposed for some little time before burial, when only a selection of the bones of each skeleton was interred in the burial-chamber. Otherwise it is difficult to understand how so many bodies could have been crammed into so small a space. There is good evidence that during the long barrow period the bodies were frequently exposed in this way before burial when only a selection of the bones was buried. Complete skeletons do, however, occur sometimes as the primary interments in long barrows.

This fine chambered long barrow is vested in the National Trust in memory of the late Benjamin Harrison, and the monument is being well looked after.

Less than half a mile east of the Coldrum barrow is a group of stones marked on the 6-inch O.S. map (1907 Revision) as the remains of a Stone Circle. It may here be noted that there is no evidence that any of the Medway megaliths were stone circles. The present group consists of more than twelve sarsens arranged roughly in two parallel lines from

west to east. It is doubtful if they ever formed a prehistoric monument.

Farther eastward is Devil's Heap Wood, which may have been named from a barrow or other earthwork known as the Devil's Heap; but this is pure conjecture on the part of the writer, who found nothing of interest when he explored the locality.

East of Harvel in Cockadam Shaw about a mile and a half north of the Coldrum sites is a heap of stones marked on the 6-inch O.S. map (1907 Revision) as the remains of a stone circle. There is no evidence that these stones ever formed part of a megalith; on the contrary it is known that at least some of the stones have been placed there recently. They appear to have been tumbled into the large basin-shaped cavity in which they now lie. They are not worth seeing, but the charming village of Harvel, with its many thatched and half-timbered houses, is well worth a visit.

The place-names Stonebridge, Stangate, Stansted, bear witness to the profusion of sarsen stones in this district.

Some three miles north-east of the Coldrum sites is Holborough Hill, on the eastern slope of which is Holborough, a large bowl-shaped barrow covered with trees. It is considered to be Roman, as the result of excavation by Thomas Wright in 1844, when a Roman fibula or brooch was found near or on the original turf-line beneath the barrow. The rambler with an eye for scenery is recommended to avoid Holborough Hill, for from it is a grand view of the cement and lime works between Halling and the place with the ugly name of Snodland. It is therefore a good plan for all but the most ardent students of Roman remains to make for old-world Aylesford after seeing the Coldrum and Addington sites.

In the Aylesford Sand Company's sandpit north of Aylesford some stone cists have been found. One of them may still be seen in the sandpit on inquiry at the foreman's house. These cists are considered to be of Bronze Age.

From Aylesford to the north-east is a road leading to Bluebell Hill and the Kit's Coty group of megaliths. In a ploughed field north of the road, and east of Great Tottington, are two large sarsens, one of which is known as the Coffin

Stone. Two skulls were found under it in 1836, and it seems clear that these stones are the remains of a burial-chamber perhaps originally covered by a barrow. Near these large stones are two much smaller stones which probably formed part of the structure.

On the south side of the metalled road, and almost opposite the Coffin Stone group, is the group known as the Countless Stones, from a tradition that they cannot be counted correctly. This group is beneath a clump of trees. In Stukeley's time (about 1722) the stones were known as the Little Coty House, or Little Kit's Coty and they appear to have been arranged in a more orderly manner, evidently forming a burial-chamber. The 'Ground Plot' of them is given in Stukeley's *Itinerarium Curiosum*. It is still frequent for groups of people to be seen counting the stones.

We now come to the most famous of the Medway megaliths, Kit's Coty, situated on the hill immediately west of an ancient trackway leading northwards from the cross-roads by the Countless Stones. In many books it is called Kit's Coty House. It is believed, however, that Coty means cottage or house, and to avoid redundancy the recent tendency has been to call the monument Kit's Coty. It was probably originally the dummy entrance at the east end of a long barrow. The mound is now nearly levelled, but under favourable conditions it may be seen from the top of Bluebell Hill and it is also visible from the air. Stukeley drew the monument in 1722 and in his drawing he included the long mound which he called 'the grave'. He also included at the western end of the mound, a stone which he called 'the General's Tomb'. This appears also on illustrations of about 1780 which I have before me. This stone was destroyed many years ago. A 'parcell of small stones' which Stukeley noted in 1723, through a correspondent, near the western end of the mound may have been the remains of a peristalith or perhaps of a burial-chamber.

Near Warren Farm there was formerly another burial-chamber or cist which was destroyed in 1823. Not far away is the White Horse Stone, north of the track to the east of Warren Cottage. This stone is a very large sarsen, which appears to have been placed in its present upright position

by human agency, and near it are a few much smaller stones. The White Horse Stone has a number of natural perforations in it, which give it the appearance of a horse's head; others see in it the representation of a fish! It may or may not be the remains of a megalithic monument. The present stone is not the original White Horse Stone which was destroyed some years ago.

From the Lower Bell Inn nearby there are frequent buses to Chatham and Maidstone. At the latter town are an excellent Library and Museum, where may be seen in the former a collection of books on Medway Valley antiquities, and in the latter many of the archaeological finds of the district.

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CHAPTER XIII

BRECKLAND AND ITS BORDERS

Few districts in Europe have more attractions to the archaeologist than Breckland. . . . Its important flint-mines at Grime's Graves ; its lengthy mileage of primitive trackways ; its dykes, many barrows, and the numerous relics of early cultures which are constantly being discovered, indicate that . . . it was one of the most important centres of culture in the British Isles.

W. G. CLARKE, *In Breckland Wilds*

THE name Breckland was given by the late W. G. Clarke to that peaceful stretch of undulating heathland which occupies the central portions of Norfolk and Suffolk. This extensive area is mostly situated on sandy soil, but is partly on the chalk. The beauty of the heath is enhanced by the number of pine plantations which are scattered over it, and here and there are clumps of golden gorse. Such a setting is ideal for a quiet ramble among the trackways, occupation-sites, and barrows of prehistoric man, in which the heath abounds. The barrows of Breckland are mostly of Bronze Age. No long barrows have so far been found here. Roman barrows exist at Eastlow Hill near Bury St. Edmunds.

While no parts of Breckland are especially prolific in tumuli, the greater portion of the region is more or less sprinkled with them. The largest groups hereabouts are just beyond the borders of Breckland—on Salthouse Heath near Cromer, and on Martlesham and Brightwell Heaths near Ipswich. It is proposed to explore this region by following the supposed course of the Icknield Way leisurely through Suffolk and Norfolk.

We left this ancient track on the Berkshire Downs (Chapter VIII), where we were in the midst of a rich Early Bronze Age area of barrows, including several of bell and disc types. It appears that the bell- and disc-barrows originated in the



THE COLDRUM LONG BARROW, KENT



BELL BARROW AMONG THE SEVEN HILLS, S.E. OF THETFORD,
NORFOLK

regions of Stonehenge or Avebury, spreading thence north-eastwards along the Berkshire Downs, roughly following the course of the ancient track known as the Icknield Way, or of the neighbouring and perhaps earlier Ridgeway over the downs. After following the Berkshire Downs, and crossing the Thames, the Way runs north-eastwards along the western slope of the Chilterns to Dunstable Downs, where it runs within a few yards of the group of barrows known as the 'Five Knolls', among which are some bell-barrows.

The Way then continues north-eastwards through Baldock and Rayston, passing near the Therfield Heath group of barrows known as the Five Hills. These are all of bowl shape except one which is a fine long barrow. Continuing north-eastwards, the track passes near the site of two barrows called 'The Two Captains' near Newmarket Racecourse, and so enters Breckland.

Between Kentford and Lackford there are round barrows on each side of the Way, within a mile or two of its course. From Lackford the Way goes by Icklingham Belt north-eastwards to Thetford, according to the generally accepted view. A possible alternative route, however, is via Icklingham, the name of this delightful village being suggestive. The track immediately east of the church, which has a thatched roof, is known as the Pilgrims' Path. Near this path and two miles north-east of Icklingham are five barrows, one of which is east of the track and the other four are west thereof. These barrows are difficult to find, and when found are rather disappointing; they are all of bowl shape, and are of but slight elevation. About two miles east of the supposed Icknield Way, near Brandon road Heath, is a tumulus known by the suggestive name of 'Traveller's Hill'. On the First Edition of the 1-inch Ordnance map three barrows appear to be marked here. The writer has not yet visited the site. Slightly north of Traveller's Hill the Icknield Way cuts a fine road known as Duke's Ride, at a place called Barrow's Corner, which may or may not have been the site of a barrow. Between here and Thetford the course of the Icknield Way is difficult to trace.

It is therefore a good plan to turn to the east along Duke's Ride to Euston, bearing north over the Little Onse bridge

and eventually reaching a barrow on Elder Hill and another to the north-west known as Tunt Hill or Tunt's Hill. Both these are large bowl-barrows. East of the road, and nearly opposite Elder Hill, is the important group known as Seven Hills, which were originally ten or more in number. Unfortunately those at the western end of the group were damaged or removed during the Great War when the site was occupied by an aerodrome. The remainder of the group consists of several fine large bowl-barrows and one bell-barrow, which is the largest in the group. There may also have been two barrows of 'disc' or 'ring' type, according to Martin, the author of the *History of Thetford*; but these are now scarcely visible from the ground though they have been shown up better on an air-photograph taken in 1935. The scenery between Icklingham and here is most beautiful.

It is a short distance from here to Thetford, which contains a very fine mound known as Castle Hill, beneath which some silver bells are said to be buried. Castle Hill, as the name implies, is the site of a castle.

The path of the Icknield Way from Thetford onwards is conjectural. The late W. G. Clarke favoured a track northwards to Hunstanton, and this is the route along which I propose to conduct my readers. It is proposed to follow Clarke's suggested route in its main outlines, but to deviate from it frequently for the purpose of seeing barrows.

The metalled road from Thetford northwards towards the Water Works leads to Gallows Hill, where there are two probable ploughed barrows just east of the road. This road leads eventually to Lynford Point, which is only a mile east of the famous flint-mine shafts known as Grime's Graves. If the rambler continues past West Tofts and then along the road to the north he will light upon another prehistoric flint quarry, in Buckenham Tofts Park. A mile to the north-east the road joins Smuggler's Road, which is probably part of the Icknield Way. In its passage across Bodney Warren it passes a barrow called Dead Man's Hill from a tradition that a man was buried there; the truth of which belief has been proved by excavation.

About two miles north-east of Dead Man's Hill (which is not marked on the 1-inch O.S. maps) is Clermont, slightly

west of which, in a field called Hill Field, a very important burial was found in a barrow which has now been destroyed. The barrow was certainly a round one. It was opened in 1849, and contained the burial of a crouched skeleton of a man, accompanied by a bronze dagger, with decayed parts of a wooden handle adhering, a necklace of amber beads, and three articles of thin gold plate. The objects of gold and amber are identical with those found in the finest of the Wiltshire barrows, and it is evident that we are here dealing with an extension of the rich and important Early and Middle Bronze Age culture which was focused on Salisbury Plain.

The Smugglers' Road continues northwards to the River Wissey, after which it continues for several miles as a main thoroughfare to Swaffham. It was at Swaffham that a man is said to have found some treasure under a pear tree in his garden, and built the north aisle of the parish church with the proceeds thereof. The story or legend is fully analysed in *The Science of Folk-lore*, by Sir Laurence Gomme.

The road north of Swaffham leads to Castle Acre with its ancient earthworks and ruins. Four miles north-east is Weasenham Plantation and Lyngs, the site of a very important group of barrows. Three of them are on the Lyngs—two bowls and one magnificent rare type, approaching a transitional form between bell and disc. This example consists of a large mound, surrounded by a platform outside of which is a ditch the earth from which has been thrown outwards to form a bank. There is also a suggestion of a slight bank between the ditch and the platform. This fine earthwork is nearly sixty yards in diameter. Inside the Plantation (which is private property) are four more barrows, one of which is called Black Hill. The other three are rare types with outer banks. One appears to be a bell with outer bank, and the other two appear to be a peculiar variety of disc-barrow having the central mound spread over the entire area of the platform. As a group the Weasenham barrows are essentially of Wiltshire type, and here again we have evidence of a north-eastern extension of the elaborate Early and Middle Bronze Age barrows of Wessex. A short distance to the north-west, on Bircham Common, is yet further evi-

dence, in the form of a group of barrows which include at least one of bell shape. One of these barrows yielded gold beads of Wiltshire type when opened by F. C. Lukis in 1842. All these sites are within three or four miles of the course of the Icknield Way as conjectured by W. G. Clarke, who possessed the most intimate knowledge of this region.

This perambulation along and near the supposed course of the Icknield Way is too long for a day's walk even for the most energetic explorer; but it would make a suitable excursion for a long week end, or a series of two or three day's excursions.

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[The Norfolk Research Committee has recently appointed a Barrow Sub-Committee, which will publish reports during the next few years.]

MAPS :

1-inch O.S. *Popular Edition*, Sheets 57, 66, 76, 86 and 87.

6-inch O.S. *Norfolk*, 14 SE. and 23 NE. (Bircham);

35 SE. (Wensum);

103 SW. (Thetford Seven Hills).

6-inch O.S. *Suffolk*, 45 SW. (Eastlow Hill Roman barrows).

76 NW., NE., SW. and SE. (extensive group on Martlesham Heath near Ipswich).

CHAPTER XIV

ROLLRIGHT

. . . So I ascended there a high hill and travall'd all on y^e top of y^e hills a pleasant and a good Roade. I came to Rowle Stone, where are many such greate stones as is at Stonidge, one stands upright, a broad Stone Called the King's Stone. . . .

Diary of Celia Fiennes, circa 1697

THE Rollright area is three miles north of Chipping Norton and about fourteen miles west of Banbury. At present divided into a number of fields most of which are or have been under plough, it was originally a stretch of heathland, across which ran a 'pleasant and a good Roade' traversed by Celia Fiennes. This road, which is on a ridgeway, is of very early date, if it is not prehistoric. A large part of it forms the county boundary between Oxfordshire and Warwickshire. Cultivation during the last two centuries has obliterated a number of barrows that formerly existed. Some of these barrows were fortunately noted by Stukeley, and the existence of others is betrayed by field-names such as 'Barrow Ground' or 'Barrow-Piece' a short distance west of the Rollright Stones, and Berryfields north of Great Rollright.

The Rollright Stones may be approached conveniently from Chipping Norton, by a road to the north turning slightly westward at Over Norton. A walk of about three miles brings the rambler to the cross-roads about 400 yards west of the Stones. At the cross-roads, on the eastern corner, is the White House, where application should be made for the key to the stone circle. The visitor will also do well to purchase here the excellent *Guide to the Rollright Stones*, by T. H. Ravenhill, price 2s., and postcard views of the stones may also be purchased if desired.

The Stones consist of three items—the King Stone, the

King's Men, and The Whispering Knights, which are also known as the Five Knights. The local legend is that a king with his knights and men was marching across the heath when a witch came to him and said :

Seven long strides shalt thou take, and
If Long Compton thou canst see
King of England thou shalt be.

The king took seven strides, but instead of seeing Long Compton he saw a huge mound (the Archdruid's Barrow) rise up before him, and the witch said :

As Long Compton thou canst not see
King of England thou shalt not be.
Rise up, stick, and stand still, stone,
For King of England thou shalt be none,
Thou and thy men hear stones shall be,
And I myself an eldern tree.

Thereupon the king was turned into a hoar stone (the King Stone), his knights into the group known as the Five or Whispering Knights, and his men into the circle known as the 'King's Men'.

But some day 'the stones will turn into flesh and blood once more, and the King will start as an armed warrior at the head of his army to overcome his enemies and rule over all the land'.¹

Stukeley informs us that 'this story the country people for some miles round are very fond of, and take it very ill if anyone doubts of it: nay, they are in danger of being stoned for their unbelief'.

The King Stone is on the north or Warwickshire side of the road, and is placed in front of a long mound. Stukeley called this mound the Archdruid's Barrow, and thought it was a long burrow. South of this mound is a long pit, possibly the remains of a quarry, but perhaps the quarry from which the material was obtained to construct the long mound. Excavation by Ravenhill and others in 1926 led the excavators to conclude that the mound was natural. It is, however, very difficult to distinguish disturbed from undisturbed ground

¹ Sir Arthur Evans.

in this subsoil, and it is probably still an open question whether the mound is natural or artificial. According to tradition there is a cave under the King Stone and perhaps under the Circle as well. Stukeley informs us that 'near the arch-druid's barrow by that called the King Stone is a square plat, oblong, formed on the turf. Hither, on a certain day in the year, the young men and maidens customarily meet and make merry with cakes and ale'. It is possible that this performance took place on Midsummer Eve, when it was customary for the blossoming elder to be cut at the King Stone. An old woman told Sir Arthur Evans that she used to see fairies come out of a hole in the side of the mound by the King Stone and dance on the mound at nights. She would place a stone over the hole to keep the fairies in, but the stone would always be moved before the next morning. This hole appears to be no longer visible, if it ever existed. The King Stone has been conjectured, by Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, to be part of an entrance to a burial-chamber on the south side of the Archdruid's Barrow. If so, this entrance would have been formed by two slabs; each of which had a semicircular piece removed, so that a circular hole was formed when the stones were placed together.

Nearly opposite the King Stone and south of the road is the stone circle known as the King's Men. At present it consists of a circle of about seventy stones, most of which are 'corroded like worm-eaten wood by the harsh jaws of time'. There is evidence that some of the stones have been placed in the circle comparatively recently, and the circle may have originally consisted of a smaller number of stones than at present. The stones in the circle are supposed to be countless, and the story is related of a baker who tried to count them by putting penny loaves on each, only to be foiled by the mysterious disappearance of some of the loaves from the stones. At midnight the stones of the circle are said to become men again and dance round.

A short distance to the east is the group known as the Five, or Whispering, Knights. One story is that they were turned into stone for whispering treason against their king. Writing of this monument, Stukeley said ' 'tis what the old Britons call'd a kist vaen or Stone chest '. 'The Whispering Knights'

consist of five upright stones originally surmounted by a coverstone which has now fallen. They are probably the remains of a burial-chamber which may have formed part of a long barrow. It is related how it took twenty horses to move this coverstone down the hill to serve as a bridge across a stream, but the stone kept on moving away during the nights from its new position; whereupon it was towed back to its former position. The return journey, although uphill, was done easily by only one horse. Such, then, is a brief account of the Rollright Stones and their folk-lore. It remains to describe a few neighbouring sites.

North of the White House (400 yards west of the King's Men) is a track, on the west of which may be noted at least three depressions in the ground. If this track is followed for about 500 yards until a hedgerow running eastwards is reached, and if this hedgerow is followed eastwards for a few yards, a number of sarsen-stones will be found north of the hedge and overlooking a spring flowing towards Long Compton. These stones may be the remains of a barrow (not certain whether long or round) containing stonework, which was mentioned by Stukeley.

If the ancient road on the county boundary by the Rollright Stones be followed south-westwards, past the Cross Hands Inn, a small group of sites may be seen to the west of the road and near some old quarries. Among the sites is a large prostrate stone in the field south of the quarry west of the Cross Hands Inn; the possible remains of a long barrow in the field west of this; and a small round barrow about 9 yards in diameter and 2 feet high, at the corner of the wood to the south. South of this wood, beneath a clump of trees, is the remains of a round barrow which appears to have been edged round with a retaining-circle of large stones. South-west of this is a camp called Chastleton Burrow. Rather more than a mile south of this is Daylesford House and Park, celebrated as the residence of Warren Hastings. To the east of Chastleton Burrow is a road leading to Cornwell and across a stream towards Boulter's Barn, near where the road meets the main road to Chipping Norton. On the north of this road and a few yards east of the corner is a large stone, which may be the remains of a megalithic monument. Half a



THE KING STONE, ROLLRIGHT, WARWICKSHIRE



THE WHISPERING KNIGHTS, ROLLRIGHT, OXON



• mile south of this stone, on the south side of a trackway leading to Churchill, is a large round barrow; there are several more barrows near Sarsden to the south, mostly round but one of them long, known as Lynham Barrow, near the seventh milestone from Burford. Lynham Barrow is an interesting though somewhat mutilated example of a chambered long barrow. In its present condition it is difficult to say whether it belongs to the true or false passage-grave type. A stone protruding about 5 feet 6 inches out of the north-eastern end may be the remains of a portal, but whether real or dummy it is impossible to say. The actual mound is in tolerably fair condition and is about 160 feet long. It has about three deep hollows with heaps of stones exposed, some of which may be the remains of dry stone walling. In the central hollow is a large upright stone. A hedge runs transversely across the mound.

A few yards north of Lynham Barrow is an oval mound which might be another long barrow, but in view of its present rather shapeless condition judgement must be suspended.

About three miles south-east of Chipping Norton is the Hawk Stone in a cultivated field. There is a distinct rise in the ground where this stone stands, and the site may well be the remains of another chambered long barrow.

South-west of Churchill is a large circular mound, possibly a barrow, known as the Mount: but the writer thinks it might be medieval. Churchill is a pretty and peaceful-looking village, built largely of the beautiful grey stone of the Cotswolds. William Smith, the father of English geology, lived here.

A short distance north-east of Chipping Norton, near Chapel House, there was formerly a disc-barrow or 'Druid's barrow' according to Stukeley, but there is nothing now visible.

Lastly, the Rambler will find the village of Long Compton well worth a visit, as it figures so largely in Rollright folk-lore. Although on an arterial road, it is still unspoilt, and is replete with good refreshment houses. Many of the cottages in this village are of the Cotswold grey stone, roofed with thatch.

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- 6-inch O.S. Map, Oxfordshire. Sheet 14 NW.
- 1-inch O.S. Map. Sheet 93 (Stow-on-the-Wold and District).



THE KING'S MEN, ROLLRIGHT, OXON



HETTY PEGLER'S TUMP, CLEY, GLOS



CHAPTER XV

THE COTSWOLDS

THE Cotswolds are essentially an area of long barrows. Round ones certainly exist in numbers, but they all appear to be of bowl form, the more elaborate bell and disc and other types being absent so far as is known. The region selected in this chapter is the south-western corner of the Cotswolds, and includes one of the most interesting long barrows in the country—Hetty Pegler's Tump, near Uley.

The village of Uley forms a convenient starting-point for this ramble, and may be reached from Dursley, or by bus from Stroud. A road northwards from Uley skirts the eastern side of Uley Bury, which is a fine camp. In the col between Uley Bury and the hill to the north is a farm, where application should be made for the key to Hetty Pegler's Tump; the ramblers are here supplied with matches and a candle, for the use of which a small charge is made. The barrow, which is about half a mile to the north of the farm, is approached by walking across a field west of the road. The eastern end of the barrow is railed in. After unlocking the outer gate, the ramblers approach the entrance to the barrow. This entrance is placed between two horns. Many Cotswold barrows had horns originally but they are scarcely ever visible now, though their existence can be determined by excavation.

Access to the internal passage and chambers at Hetty Pegler's Tump is obtained through the very small square door covering the entrance. It will be noticed that the internal structure consists of a low passage with two chambers or recesses leading off on the left or south. Originally there were chambers on the north side as well, but these were in such a ruinous condition when the barrow was opened last century that they were blocked up. Connected with one of

the burial-chambers by a small hole is a kind of small ante-chamber, the purpose of which is unknown. It may have been a recess to contain food for the dead, to contain the burial of an infant, or a 'ghost-hole' to assist the spirit of deceased to escape, or it may be a recess symbolical of a connexion between the living and the dead. Hetty Pegler's Tump is one of the very few English chambered barrows the internal structures of which are still accessible. The mound commands magnificent views, especially of the Welsh Mountains to the west.

A mile north of this Tump is a heap of stones placed in a slight hollow in a denuded mound, west of the road. This is what is left of Nympsfield long barrow. The plan of the stones is that of a cross, the long central arm of which corresponds to the passage at Uley, the offshoots being the remains of the burial-chambers.

A mile south-east is Nympsfield, where postcard views of Hetty Pegler's Tump are obtainable. A road from the Nympsfield long barrow eastwards reaches Bown Hill in about two miles. If the Rambler follows a track southwards for half a mile and then walks to the west for a short distance he will come to a long barrow on top of Bown Hill, with a round one a few yards to the west. After returning to the main road north of Bown Hill, Selsley Common to the north should be crossed, when a very large long barrow known as the Toots comes into view. This is one of the longest examples on the Cotswolds, being about 210 feet long. A mile to the east is a celebrated Roman villa at Woodchester, the pavements of which are said to have been originally composed of no less than a million and a half tesserae.

To the south-east of the villa is Minchinhampton Common, on which are two barrows, one round and one long, as well as some pillow-mounds. The road across Minchinhampton Common eastwards passes an entrenchment known as the Bulwarks, and after another mile reaches Blue Boy's Farm, north-east of which is, or was, a round barrow which the writer has not yet seen. Another mile farther east is the Hyde Tumulus, a large oval barrow covered with trees. This barrow is thought to be Roman. If so it is one of the very few Roman barrows in the west country.

A track southwards leads to the main road, along which the Rambler should walk a few yards eastwards and then take the track to the south past Peaches Farm, meeting an east-west track near a place called Crackstone, which may well be the site of a barrow, possibly a long one. East of Crackstone is a field called the Devil's Churchyard, which has the fairly common legend of an intention to build a church there being frustrated by the mysterious removal of the stones to another field at Minchinhampton, where the church was ultimately erected. The Devil's Churchyard is supposed to be haunted, and the field to the south is known as Noggar-noise, which may be a corruption of knocking-noise. Certain stones at the Devil's Churchyard may be the remains of a megalithic monument.

To the west of Crackstone is a road leading southwards to the Minchinhampton Long Stone. The latter is said to walk round the field *when it hears* the clock strike twelve, and the reputed healing properties of this holed stone have already been referred to in the Folk-lore chapter. This stone is perhaps the remains of a chambered long barrow. A large black dog is said to appear and vanish periodically near this site.

A walk of a short distance southwards along the road west of the Long Stone brings the Rambler to the entrance to Gatecombe Park. A walk of a few yards into the park leads to a gate on the right or north, which is the entrance to the field in which the Gatecombe Park long barrow is situated. This is a fine example, covered with trees. It is surrounded by a modern stone wall. Half a mile south-west is a round barrow which I have not yet seen.

The Rambler should now return to the road by the entrance to Gatecombe Park, and walk for nearly half a mile southwards, turning to the west or right at the first turning, and should continue walking for another few hundred yards until the Tinglestone long barrow becomes visible on the right. This is also a fine mound, covered with trees. It is crowned by a single upright stone (the Tinglestone) at the northern end, which is probably one of the uprights which may have originally, with the addition of a capstone, formed an entrance to the barrow.

The road by the Tinglestone barrow descends southwards into the pretty village of Avening, in the beautiful rectory garden of which are three stone burial-chambers which were removed many years ago from the long barrow known as Norn's Tump or the Norn east of Avening. On the hill between Avening and Nailsworth are four round barrows and one long one.

The Rambler who, after seeing all the above-mentioned sites, has energy left to walk another four miles, may see Windmill Tump, Rodmarton, by walking eastwards from Avening along the road by the river, and taking a turning to the right leading to the Roman Road which runs within a short distance of Windmill Tump. This barrow is surrounded by a modern stone wall. The remains of the dummy entrance at the eastern end are visible, and the chambers at the north and south are also well seen, but the actual mound is rather mutilated. The whole barrow is covered with trees.

The living of Rodmarton hard by was at one time in the hands of Rev. Samuel Lysons, author of *Magna Britannia*, *Our British Ancestors*, and other antiquarian works, in some of which the author discusses Cotswold barrows at length.

Belas Knap.—It remains to discuss this celebrated long barrow which, although on the Cotswolds, is outside the region taken for study in the rest of this chapter. Belas Knap is situated two miles south of Winchcombe, and may conveniently be approached either from that town or from Cheltenham from which it is distant about four miles. Post-card-photographs of it may be purchased in Winchcombe, a guide to which town, the ancient capital of Mercia, is also obtainable. A walk southwards from Winchcombe, past the entrance to Sudeley Castle and grounds, leads to a mill by a turning to the left or east; this turning leads to within a quarter of a mile of the barrow. At a fork in this road, by Cordean Hall, is a notice-board directing the Rambler to Belas Knap. I have found that a slightly quicker way is to ignore this notice board and take the road on the left past the Wadfield Roman Villa, nearly opposite which is a foot-path leading up the hill to the west, by the side of the wood. On top of this hill is the barrow, which has been restored by the Office of Works and the Bristol and Gloucestershire



BELAS KNAP, GLOS. THE DUMMY ENTRANCE (RESTORED)



BELAS KNAP, GLOS. THE N.E. BURIAL-CHAMBER (RESTORED)



Archaeological Society. The barrow has been restored as near as possible to what is believed to have been its appearance when first erected.

The rambler will notice that it is the 'dummy entrance' type of long barrow, having the burial-chambers inset from the flank-sides of the mound. The magnificent dry stone walling on the horns on each side of the dummy entrance should be closely examined. It is mostly recent but some of it is original. The horns are also worthy of careful attention, because this is, so far as the writer knows, the only English long barrow in which the horns are really well seen. It will be noticed that they are convex, and not concave like the horns of the long barrows in Caithness. It is hardly necessary to say that there is nothing but the ordinary material of the mound behind the dummy entrance: there is no passage as at Uley.

The whole mound is edged round by dry stone walling, which is much higher on the horns than elsewhere. On the western flank-side is a burial-chamber, and there are two more on the eastern flank-side. The best of these is about 5 feet high and 6 feet wide, the entrance being nearly 4 feet wide. The entrance and chamber are walled with dry stone walling, which is partly obscured in the chamber by six massive upright stones surrounding the walls. The inlet at the south end is a burial-chamber which could not, for technical reasons, be roofed over when the barrow was restored. The restored roofing of the other chambers is quite unlike the original roofing.

Every one interested in archaeology and rambling should make a special point of visiting this fine monument, because it is one of the most interesting of its kind in the country.

Wincheombe itself is a good centre, and may be approached by bus from Cheltenham, or by train from London and elsewhere.

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6-inch O.S. Gloucestershire, 20 SW. (Belas Knap).

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CHAPTER XVI

ARBOR LOW AND THE DERBYSHIRE DALES

WE now enter a region as rich in antiquities as it is beautiful in scenery. For the limestone hills of north Derbyshire are not only separated by the glorious flower-decked dales, but are crowned by innumerable barrows, here almost universally termed lows, some of which contain stone cists and chambers.

The best centres for exploring this area are Bakewell and Youghreave. The peaceful village of Youghreave is a particularly convenient centre for the Rambler, and accommodation may be obtained at the Bull's Head or the George Inn. Slightly south-west of the village is Bradford Dale, through which flows the River Bradford, a tributary of the Derwent. Bradford Dale, though among the smallest, is yet among the most delightful of the dales, its stream of crystal-clear water flowing among banks decked in spring with profusion of primroses and bluebells, with here and there a graceful silver birch, all set in a carpet of the smoothest emerald grass interrupted ever and anon by protruding rocks of grey limestone.

This beautiful dale is bordered on the west by the grounds enclosing Lomberdale House, which formerly contained a fine museum of local antiquities formed by William Bateman and his son Thomas, who lived at Middleton Hall to the south. The archaeology of all this district is permeated by the spirit of Thomas Bateman, a gentleman of means who spent the greater part of his life in excavating the barrows hereabouts, and who wrote the *Vestiges of the Antiquities of Derbyshire and Ten Years' Diggings in Celtic and Saxon Grave Hills in Derby, Stafford and York*, as well as numerous papers in archaeological journals. Thomas Bateman's tomb, surmounted by a stone model of a prehistoric cinerary urn, is to be seen just behind Middleton Congregational Church.

The manuscript of his books, in his own incomparable copper-plate handwriting and illustrated by beautifully executed drawings, is in the Public Museum at Weston Park, Sheffield, along with many other Bateman papers including his own interleaved copy of the *Vestiges* with his manuscript additions. The bulk of Bateman's collection of his finds in the barrows is also in the Sheffield Museum, and this fine collection should be seen by all those interested in the antiquities of this region.

Our survey must necessarily start with a brief account of Arbor Low, the great stone circle which is the most important prehistoric antiquity in Derbyshire. It is situated about three miles west of Middleton-by-Youlgreave. It is possible that the road known as Long Rake which leads from a few yards north of Arbor Low to Youlgreave may be on the site of an ancient trackway. A mile south of the circle is Green Lane which leads to Middleton, and this lane is also probably an ancient track.

Arbor Low should be approached from the road to the north (Long Rake) where there is a turning leading southwards to Little Oldham's Farm. It is at this farm that one should pay an admission fee of 3d. to Arbor Low and Gib Hill, and here also is obtainable a threepenny guide to the site. This guide is, however, not too reliable.

Arbor Low consists of a group of stones arranged in a circle, surrounded by a deep trench and bank. In general appearance the site may be said to resemble the circles at Avebury and Stanton Drew, but nearly all the stones at Arbor Low have fallen and are now lying flat on the ground. This impressive circle was like others of its kind probably the centre of civil and religious life in prehistoric times for the district in which it was placed. Yet the moors in the immediate vicinity of this circle are not studded nearly so thickly with barrows as are the plains surrounding Stonehenge and Avebury. Nevertheless, nearly all the best barrows in the Peak and limestone areas of Derbyshire and Staffordshire are within a six-mile radius of Arbor Low. It is certain that many barrows in this area have been destroyed. The circle may have been constructed between 2000 and 1800 B.C., and is earlier than the Bronze Age barrow placed on its eastern margin.

There is a long entrenchment stretching from the circle to a point rather east of the very large and fine tumulus known as Gib Hill. Gib Hill is one of the most impressive round barrows in Derbyshire. Excavation by Thomas Bateman in 1848 showed that the mound covered up four smaller mounds arranged in a square. These four small mounds were covered by a mass of earth and stones and near the summit of the whole was placed a cist composed of large slabs of limestone native to the locality. In this cist was placed the burial, which consisted of a deposit of cremated human bones and a food vessel. Bateman and his diggers were busily burrowing near the base of the mound searching for the burial when the earth above fell in and exposed the cist which partly fell on top of them.

The moors for a few miles round Arbor Low are scattered with round barrows, most of which, however, are rather uninteresting. One of the best examples is End Low, situated prominently on a hilltop two miles south of Gib Hill. End Low was opened by Thomas Bateman who found in it, 10 feet below the top of the mound, the burial of a skeleton of a man accompanied by a bronze knife-dagger and a flint implement. One of the most interesting round barrows opened by Bateman was Liff's Low, two miles south of End Low. In this he found a cist constructed of the usual local limestone slabs, and this cist contained the contracted skeleton of a man, evidently a leader of his tribe. With him were buried a pottery vessel, two beautifully-chipped flint axes, a hammer-head, two flint arrow-heads, two flint knives polished on the edge, and other flint implements, as well as the horn of a red deer and a pair of enormous boar's tusks. Of even greater interest was some red ochre, three pieces of which were found near the skeleton. Here, therefore, we have the burial of a hunter, complete with arrow-heads, axes, knives, wood and trophies.

At least four round barrows in this area contain visible stone chambers and cists, and these examples are unquestionably the most interesting from the point of view of their present appearance.

The Five Wells tumulus is situated north of Five Wells Farm and west of Taddington, on the moors about five miles

daus, rock idols and cairns. Their (i.e. the Druids') sacred groves have long since given way to cultivation; but their more durable monuments . . . remain as helps to illustrate their history' (!). West of Birchover is the inn known as the Druid Arms, and whoever purchases a half-pint here may enjoy the privilege of seeing the 'Druid Stones' at Rowtor behind the inn. They are certainly well worth seeing and two rocking stones are among them.

A mile to the west, in a field on Harthill Moor known as Nine Stone Close, are four large stones which are considered to be the remains of a stone circle. To the south another large stone, apparently ancient, functions as a gatepost, and this stone may be connected with the others. Near-by is a camp called Castle Ring.

Before leaving Birchover for Stanton Moor the rambler is advised to call at the local Post Office and obtain the pamphlet entitled *Birchover: its Prehistoric and Druidical Remains* (price 9d.), as this is an excellent and reliable account of the important local antiquities. At the time of writing, the Post Office houses an interesting collection of urns, implements and other articles, many of which have been recently excavated from the barrows on Stanton Moor by the proprietor of the Post Office and his son, Messrs. J. C. and J. P. Heathcote. Here also are obtainable postcard-photographs of local barrows, stone circles, prehistoric urns and other antiquities. In fact, at Birchover the barrow-hunter is thoroughly catered for.

The road from Birchover to Stanton passes slightly east of a small plantation enclosing the large block known as the Andle Stone. Major Rooke, writing in the eighteenth century, stated that the Andle Stone was surrounded by a circle of stones in his time. Three hundred yards south-west of this stone is a small circle of six stones, which in Bateman's time enclosed a barrow in which he found cremated bones and the remains of 'three or four cinerary urns, and as many incense cups'. North of and adjoining this circle is a peculiar barrow which has been uncovered by the Heathcotes, revealing a stone cist. The Heathcotes have also uncovered the stone circle, and many of the barrows on Stanton Moor east of the road from Birchover to Stanton.

After returning to the main road from the sites near the Audle Stone, the Rambler is advised to walk a few yards to the south and take the pathway by New Park Quarry leading past the Cork Stone, the climbing of which is much more difficult than it appears, in spite of the foot-rests and handles fixed to the stone. After passing one or two small barrow-sites the Rambler reaches a large round barrow surrounded by a wire fence, nearly 400 yards east of the Cork Stone. This most interesting barrow has been opened, leaving a good view of its internal structure. It is seen to contain two concentric circles of stone and a stone cist in the centre, the whole being originally covered by a circular mound. This cist contained the primary burial which was by cremation, and about a dozen secondary cremations were found in different parts of the barrow. All the barrows so far opened with result on Stanton Moor have contained primary burials by cremation, and they all seem to belong to the Bronze Age.

Between this barrow and the 1832 Reform Tower to the north-east are several more barrows, including some very peculiar small and irregularly-shaped ones the internal structures of which have been left exposed after excavation by the Heathcotes. This extensive group includes about three earth circles. On the northern fringe of the moor is the stone circle known as the Nine Ladies, with its attendant single stone, about 30 yards to the west known as the King Stone. Both these sites are surrounded by modern low stone walls and 'the Nine Ladies' is protected under the Ancient Monuments Act. The Nine Ladies circle originally enclosed a barrow. Near-by 'are several cairns: one had been opened a few years ago, and much rummaged: bones were found with a large blue glass bead'; thus wrote Major Rooke about 1787. One of the best round barrows in this area is the large one 85 yards south of the Reform Tower. For descriptions of many other sites on Stanton Moor, which is a region of great charm, the reader is referred to the bibliography at the end of this chapter.

North of Stanton Moor is a tract of country the magnificence of which no words of the writer's choice can adequately describe. It includes the beautiful grounds of Chatsworth and Haddon Hall, Calton Pastures (on which are about half a

dozen good round barrows) and Beeley. East of Chatsworth is the celebrated barrow known as Hob Hurst's House, remotely situated on a bleak moor bordering Bunker's Hill Wood; this site is traditionally the abode of Hob o' the Hurst, and the hurst of course is Bunker's Hill Wood.

Hob Hurst's House differs from the majority of barrows in being of a squarish shape, surrounded by a square ditch and bank. The mound was opened by Bateman who found in it a stone cist enclosing a cremation.

It remains to refer briefly to a grave-mound of much later date than any previously described in this chapter. The example in question is near Arbor Low, west of Benty Grange Farm and about 200 yards north of the eighth milestone from Buxton on the road to Ashbourne. It is quite small but differs from most examples in being surrounded by a low ditch and bank. In the words of Bateman, the mound 'afforded a more instructive collection of relics than has ever been discovered in the county, . . . which are not surpassed in interest by any remains hitherto recovered from any Anglo-Saxon burying place in the kingdom'. It contained the burial of an Anglo-Saxon chief, with a helmet, the remains of a leather cap with silver border and fastenings, and other grave-goods.

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*Phillips, C. W. : *O.S. Map of the Trent Basin*, showing Long Barrows . . . , 1933.

*Specially recommended.

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1-inch O.S. Tourist Map of the Peak District.

6-inch O.S. Derbyshire. Sheet 28 and 29 SW.

O.S. Map of the Trent Basin, showing the distribution of Long Barrows, Megaliths, and Habitation Sites.

MUSEUM :

The Weston Park Museum, Sheffield, contains the Bateman collection of grave-goods from barrows in Derbyshire and elsewhere.

CHAPTER XVII

THE WOLD COUNTRY

(1) LINCOLNSHIRE is proverbially among the most ploughed counties in England, and this fact may be the explanation of the scarcity of ancient barrows here. On the other hand, barrows are extremely scarce in some of the neighbouring counties, including Northants, Rutland and Leicestershire. Lincolnshire never was a prolific barrow-area such as Wiltshire, Sussex, or Yorkshire. It has recently been worked over very thoroughly archaeologically by Mr. C. W. Phillips, F.S.A., from whose published papers and verbal information most of this section is compiled. The thanks of every archaeologist are due to Mr. Phillips for the thorough way in which he has studied the barrows of this hitherto somewhat neglected county.

It is proposed to start this ramble at Burgh le Marsh (pronounced locally Borough). South of the road and a very short distance west of the church in this village is a large round barrow which was, Mr. Phillips informs me, increased in size a century or two ago, probably to form a look-out. This mound, which is known as Cock Hill, was opened in 1933, when it yielded a primary interment of Anglo-Saxon period. The material of the original mound contained quantities of Romano-British pottery. From this it is clear that the mound cannot be earlier in date than the pottery scattered through it. The fragments must have been in the soil at the time the mound was built.

The road north-westwards passes Burgh Station and then continues westwards to Candlesby. Mid-way between Gunby and Candlesby, north of the road, is a long mound which may or may not be a long barrow. Personally, I am inclined to reject it until it has been further studied, although I was

informed by a local inhabitant, of a vague tradition that it was 'thrown up in the wars'.

A mile north of Candlesby is Welton le Marsh, from which is a Roman Road running north-westwards towards Uleebby. Between this road and Skendleby Lodge is a fine long barrow, (one of two known as the Giants' Hills) which was opened in 1933-4 by Mr. C. W. Phillips. It was shown to have a ditch not only on the flank-sides but also round the ends, except for a very narrow causeway in one part. Evidence of complicated wooden structures was found in the mound. The primary burial consisted of the remains of no less than eight persons, seven of whom were male adults, the remaining being a child of two. Four of the burials were in the crouching position, the other four consisting of bones thrown in at random. These burials were under the eastern end of the mound, which was larger than the western end. A very fine scale model of this long barrow, showing the excavations and a reconstruction of the original timberwork, is on exhibition at the British Museum, together with some of the finds from the barrow. About 300 yards south-east is the remains of a second long barrow, situated in the middle of a ploughed field slightly lower down the hill. This is the other member of the Giants' Hills.

East of the Giants' Hills is a road turning northwards to Skendleby Salter and Claxby. Between these two villages, and north of the road, are two fine long barrows, both tree-covered, on separate spurs of a hill. In outward appearance these barrows are among the most interesting on the Wolds. Each is a typical long barrow in a fairly good state of preservation. They are known as the Deadmen's Graves.

South of Fordington to the west are two mounds among medieval earthworks which represent a village-site. Although these two mounds are marked on the maps as tumuli, it is possible that they are medieval and form part of the village-site.

Rather more than a mile farther west is the long barrow known as Spellow Hills (anciently spell lion, lion probably meaning hill). This mound has been badly mutilated and bears a superficial resemblance to three round barrows. The mound is also known as the 'Hills of the Shuin'. Human

bones and 'armour' are said to have been found in it many years ago. In tradition it has been variously regarded as the burial-place of some victims of the plague, and the burial-place of soldiers killed in a mythical 'Battle of Partney', a neighbouring village. Our survey of the barrows in this small area between Burgh le Marsh and Spellow Hills is now brought to a close. It remains to refer to one or two sites in outlying districts.

From Uleeby Cross is a road leading north-westwards to Louth. On the north-east side of this road, in a plantation between Swahy and Walmsgate, is a large long barrow, the largest in the county.

Farther north-west, between Haugham and Tathwell, is a fine group of round barrows, the finest in the county. They are seven in number, and are situated on Bully Hill. North of Haugham are two more.

(2) THE YORKSHIRE WOLDS

It is regrettable that the Yorkshire acres were not sufficiently broad to enable one small portion of the Wolds to be protected from the ravages of the plough, and converted into a kind of barrow-sanctuary. As it is, there is hardly a barrow that has not been under cultivation in recent times. If Lincolnshire is the most ploughed county in England, the Yorkshire Wolds are surely the most *barrow*-ploughed area anywhere.

It is fortunate, however, that we have in the works of Greenwell and Mortimer an accurate account of their excavations and findings in at least five hundred of these ploughed barrows on the Wolds; a small number of other barrows have also been opened by other workers.

It is the purpose of the following notes to select a few of the more interesting of these mounds, especially those still existing, and to describe their features and contents. At the outset it may be stated that the magnificent series of researches and excavations by Greenwell and Mortimer have probably tended to make the barrows on the Yorkshire Wolds appear more important than they really are. At the

same time the abundance of beakers and food vessels makes it plain that the region in question *was* important.

Let us pass in review a few significant sites on the Wolds, starting from the south-west and working towards the north-east.

On the western slope of the Wolds between North Grimston and Menethorpe is Hedon Howe, a barrow very unusual in these parts by reason of the fact that it originally contained five stone cists, the most perfect of which is at the Mortimer Museum, Hull (though not at present on view). These five cists were arranged in the form of a cross. As all the cists except the central one had the outer slab 'removed or partly removed', one wonders whether these structures were closed-in cists or chambers leading from the margin of the mound (compare the fine Mimming Low, described in Part II, Chapter XVI). The Hedon Howe cists contained contracted skeletons with food vessels and beakers.

Some six miles east of Hedon Howe is the fine barrow known as Howe Hill, or Duggleby Howe, south of village of that name. This is one of the very few barrows that are still in good preservation. It is an enormous round barrow about 42 yards in diameter and over 20 feet in height, and is situated in a small field under grass. It has the distinction of being one of the extremely rare round burrows which have strong affinities with the Neolithic culture. It was opened in 1890 by Mortimer, who found in it ten primary burials of flexed skeletons, surmounted by no less than 53 human cremations, doubtless of victims sacrificed at the funeral of the people represented by the skeletons. These cremations were without urns and no grave-goods of any consequence were associated. There were doubtless many more cremations in the unexcavated parts of the mound. All these cremations and skeletons were sealed in by a layer of blue Kimmeridge clay which in its turn was covered by a thick layer of chalk rubble completing the mound.

Among the grave-goods deposited with the skeletons were a beautiful chipped axe polished at the cutting edge, a finely-worked diamond-shaped arrow-head, a magnificent polished flint knife, which Sir John Evans declared to be the finest he had ever seen, and a round-bottomed pottery vessel of Neo-

lithic type. The latter is perhaps the most significant find of all from this barrow. The human skeletons found were all typically of the long barrow type, representing a long-headed people of short stature (5 feet 6 inches).

We have therefore in this round barrow a primary interment of ten skeletons of Neolithic type, associated with a round-bottomed vessel of Neolithic culture. On the other hand, the flint implements, especially the polished flint knife and the polished axe (which is concave-sided and resembles a copy in flint of a flat copper or bronze axe) may well be of the Early Bronze Age. The facts of this most interesting and important barrow are best accounted for by assuming a fusion of long and round barrow people, and a fusion of their cultures.

Remarkably similar in external form to Duggleby Howe is Willy Howe near Wold Newton about twelve miles east-north-east. Willy Howe was considered by Greenwell to be the largest barrow on the Yorkshire Wolds. But an example at the foot of Garrowby Hill, which I have not seen, is larger, though its artificial origin is not proved. Willy Howe is about 60 yards in diameter and 24 feet high, and is tree-covered. The top of the mound is badly mutilated. The mound may perhaps be slightly oval in form. It was opened without result by Lord Londesborough in 1857, and again in 1887 by Greenwell, who found at the centre an oval grave sunk through the solid chalk to a depth of over 12 feet. This grave, although undisturbed, contained no burial, and Greenwell concluded that Willy Howe was therefore a cenotaph barrow, 'thrown up merely to commemorate, and not to contain the body of, some great personage'.

The folk-lore of Willy Howe has already been given fully in the chapter on Folk-lore, page 55.

An account of Wold barrows would be incomplete without a reference to the Early Iron Age grave-mound clusters that were formerly visible near Arras and Hessleskew east of Market Weighton, and at the Danes' Graves about four miles north of Driffeld. The latter consisted of several hundred small circular mounds mostly between 4 and 8 yards in diameter and between 1 and 3 feet high, some of them surrounded by a ditch. These mounds were clustered thickly together. Excavation in them by Greenwell, Mortimer and

others, showed them to cover skeletons some of which were so greatly contracted as to suggest that they may have been bound. Associated with some of the skeletons were pottery vessels, some of which contained the bones of pigs. Pottery vessels from the Danes' Graves are in the British Museum. A few of the more important Early Iron Age barrows on the Yorkshire Wolds contained burials accompanied by iron chariots. As a class these grave-mound clusters on the Wolds belong to the later part of the Early Iron Age, known as the La Tène period. Some of the Danes' Graves north of Driffield are still visible.

Of particular interest is a group of three average-sized round barrows within a few hundred yards of the edge of Gristhorpe cliff, between Scarborough and Filey. It was from the central of these mounds that a celebrated burial was found in 1834. In that year W. Beswick of Gristhorpe excavated this barrow and found in it a tree-trunk coffin in a remarkably good state of preservation. It is of oak and is 7 feet long. At one end of the lid is a rude carving of what may be a representation of the human face. Inside this coffin was a perfectly preserved skeleton of a fully grown man, together with the remains of a wooden dish or basket, some hair belonging to the skin in which the body was wrapped, an early Bronze Age bronze dagger, a bone awl, and three worked flints. All these objects now form the most important exhibit in the Scarborough Museum.

Burials in oak tree-trunk coffins such as this are common in Scandinavia, and the Gristhorpe example, being situated so near the east coast, may perhaps bespeak Scandinavian influence. On the other hand there is an important group of tree-trunk coffin-burials under barrows in Wiltshire which may be native. But there is no doubt that Scandinavian influence was felt on the east coast of Yorkshire.

It is unfortunate that the extreme scarcity of unploughed sites on the Wolds renders a good barrow-jant impossible. The ramblor who desires to get a glimpse of this country and to see a few good ancient sites is recommended to start his walk from Rudston, where the Roman remains recently exposed may be seen, and where is situated a very large standing stone near the church. A walk of about three miles

brings the Rambler to Thwing, rather more than a mile north of which is the celebrated Willy Howe, near one of the little streams known as Gypsy Race. A mile to the west is Wold Newton where a halt may be made for refreshments at the Anvil Inn, or the fine guest-house at Wold Newton Hall. The custom of playing games every Shrove Tuesday on the barrow known as Bull Hill, south of Wold Newton, has already been referred to in the Folk-lore chapter. A monument south-west of the village marks the site where a meteorite fell, which is now in the Natural History Museum, London.

A walk of rather more than a mile to the north leads to the tiny village of Fordon, reputed the smallest in Yorkshire. Continuing northwards the Rambler passes near Danebury Manor and east of a barrow known as Elf Howe, and eventually comes to the escarpment above Folkton, from which is a magnificent view of the sea, the cliffs near Gristharpe (where the tree-trunk burial was found), and the Yorkshire Moors, which form the subject of the next and last chapter of this work.

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HOWE HILL, DUGGLEBY, YORKS E.R.

A round barrow, the grave-goods and skeletons from which are of Neolithic culture



**FLAT HOWE, SLEIGHTS MOOR, CLEVELAND, YORKS N.R., SHOWING
THE ORIGINAL PERISTALITH**

A round barrow bordered by a circle of stones



CHAPTER XVIII

THE YORKSHIRE MOORS

The moors may well be called the 'Land of Barrows' . . . I estimate that the total number of barrows yet studding the uplands of north-east Yorkshire cannot be less than 10,000. In the past there may have been as many more.

ELGAR, *Early Man in North-East Yorkshire*, p. 120

It was Thomas Hardy who remarked of his Egdon Heath in Wessex that 'in the heath's barrenness to the farmer lay its fertility to the historian'. Of no country is this truer than the Yorkshire Moors which are now to be described. They are so barren and desolate that if Cobbett had seen them he would have said they were 'worse than Bagshot Heath'—from the farmer's point of view. Yet there is no more prolific area in the North of England for the archaeologist.

As walking country the Moors possess a great lure. Except where clearances have been made for turf-cutting, they are almost entirely covered by a carpet of soft heather, locally called ling; the hilltops, ridges, or 'Riggs' as they are locally called, are almost invariably crowned with barrows which are locally known as hoes. The chief other occupants of the Moors are the sheep which roam over them in all directions, and the grouse. The prospective searcher after antiquities will be well advised to avoid tramping these moors during the grouse-shooting season (12th August till 10th December).

In common with most heath-country, the Moors contain very few long barrows, those that exist being on the southern fringe, especially on the limestone hills between Pickering and Scarborough. Burials with beakers are equally rare, and those accompanied by food vessels are almost absent.

The Moors do not therefore appear to have been inhabited

to any extent until the Middle Bronze Age, that is from about 1500 B.C. onwards.

Broadly speaking, the houses of this region are of two kinds—large ones placed singly or in small groups, and very small ones grouped thickly in clusters.

The large ones are sometimes very impressive, a particularly fine example being the easternmost member of Robin Hood Butts, about two miles north of Danby in Cleveland. Of special interest are several examples neatly edged round at the base with a peristalith or ring of stones. The finest peristalith-harrows I have ever seen are in Cleveland, especially Flat Howe and Robbed Howe on Sleights Moor, and one of the Foster Howes on Whinstone Ridge, north-east of Goathland. Atkinson described some houses with peristaliths on Guisborough Moor north-west of Danby, but the writer has not yet seen them. All these large houses that have been opened with result have yielded cremations, apparently all of Middle or Late Bronze Age.

The small houses are grouped very thickly in clusters. The largest group known is on Shooting House Rigg near the pond known as Foul Sike, about four miles south-west of Robin Hood's Bay. This group consists of about 1300 tiny grave-mounds, but these are very poorly preserved and it is easy to walk over the ground without noticing them. Perhaps the best large group is on Danby Rigg; this contains about 820 examples, mostly in a good state of preservation. These will be described in more detail shortly. These tiny houses are each between 3 and 6 yards in diameter and between 6 inches and 2 feet high, and are composed of loose stones and earth. Many of them were opened by Atkinson who found in them nothing but bits of charcoal. He assumed that they must have originally covered skeleton-burials which have entirely decayed. It will be recalled by some readers that while burnt bones are almost indestructible, unburnt skeletons will perish very quickly if interred in the sandy soil of a moorland area such as this. At the same time it must be admitted that the sepulchral origin of these enormous numbers of tiny circular mounds has not yet been proved; but it is difficult to understand what else they can be.

One thing is certain: if they are burial-cairns they repre-

sent a departure from the custom of erecting barrows only over the remains of persons of eminence. If these are barrows, as is certainly probable, they are the graves of the common people of a prehistoric age. If they belong to the Bronze Age, they may perhaps be regarded as the forerunners of the grave-mound clusters of Early Iron Age and Saxon times. But the Cleveland grave-mound clusters may well belong to a period later than the Bronze Age.

DANBY

It is now proposed to describe in greater detail some of the antiquities of a small area round Danby, the parish of which Canon J. C. Atkinson was vicar from 1847 till his death in 1900 at the age of 85. During those 53 years of residence in Danby, Atkinson spent a great deal of time collecting every scrap of information he could obtain relative to the customs, traditions, archaeology, history, geology, and other aspects of the study of his immediate surroundings. The results of his studies were his *Glossary of the Cleveland Dialect*, *History of Cleveland*, a large number of articles in the *Gentlemen's Magazine*, and his delightful and popular *Forty Years in a Moorland Parish*. The latter work is a classic. He maintained that the many days he and his family spent barrow-digging were among the happiest of his life.

My wife and a friend or two, together with two or three of my elder lads—boys from ten to fourteen years old—besides the working men, were the party. And we all of us worked. The boys had their small spades. I marked out the work, and directed it; . . . the moment any of the recognized signs of an approach to what might prove to be a deposit were observed, the vicar was warned; and all the work of . . . carefully groping and feeling for, and finally extracting, the precious and probably broken or crushed, as well as frail, earthen vessel was his exclusive province.

No happier excavation-party can be pictured than this enthusiastic vicar with his wife and children assisting him in the explorations which he so lovingly and carefully pursued. If some of his excavation-methods fell short of the very exacting demands of modern archaeology, it can truly be said that Canon Atkinson did his level best, in the face of many handicaps, not least of which was that of being 60

miles distant from 'any collection of books worthy to be named a library'. His collection of pottery and other antiquities from the barrows is now in the British Museum. His church, nearly two miles from Danby village, was restored by his friends and parishioners as a memorial to him in 1903, and he is buried in the south-west part of the churchyard. During a recent visit to Danby the writer had the pleasure of meeting some elderly residents who remembered 'the Canon' as he was called.

A 'houe-hunt' may well be started by walking from Danby End southwards through Ainthorpe and past the Fox and Hounds Inn and then ascending Danby Rigg, by the track known as Old Wife's Stones Road. 'Old Wife' is thought to have been the Goddess of Winter. This road leads to the vast necropolis of about 820 tiny houes on the northern spur of Danby High Moor. Each mound averages about 5 yards in diameter and a foot or two high, and is composed of loose stones and earth, the stones being mostly between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter. These cairns present quite a venerable appearance, the interstices between the stones being covered with limg and many of the stones themselves covered with lichen.

Among these cairns are several standing stones, perhaps the 'Old Wife's Stones' from which the ridge-track is named. One of these stones, much thicker than the others, is on the circumference of a truncated barrow, or (more doubtfully) on a ring of loose earth and stones forming a circle, bisected by the track. The hollow grooves down this stone are probably due to rain-water forming runnels down it. This circle or barrow contained at the centre two urns inverted over burnt bones.

Farther south is a mutilated large barrow with a peristalith or retaining wall of stones. It will be noticed that, as occurs frequently, the stones of this retaining wall point outwards. This may be due to the weight of the material of the original barrow pressing against the outer ring of retaining stones and forcing them outwards. Originally the stones of the peristalith may have sloped inwards and rested against the sides of the original barrow, as they still do frequently on Dartmoor.

Slightly south of this mutilated barrow is an entrenchment

very rudely constructed of stones and earth. This trench marks the southern limit of the really prolific part of the necropolis. Between this single entrenchment and the Double Dike nearly half a mile southwards, is a fine earthen circle with three stones standing on the circumference. The circle consists of a bank of stones and earth about a foot high and 8 feet wide, and the diameter of the circle is about 25 yards. The fine Double Dike to the south of this is crowned by about seven upright stones, five of which are together. It is supposed to have originally been crowned by stones set at frequent intervals along its entire course.

South of Double Dikes there appear to be few or no clusters of tiny houses, but there are three large ones, two of which are known as Pind Houses and the third and most southerly is called Wolf Pit. Two miles south-west of Wolf Pit tumulus are the three 'Western Houses'. These were opened by Atkinson who found in one of them a cinerary urn containing a polished granite axe, an incense cup, and some burnt bones. North of Western Houses is a single house called 'Stone Rock Hill' or 'Stone Rook Hill', in which Atkinson found a very fine and carefully ornamented cinerary urn inside which were a smaller urn and an incense cup. The walk northwards over Castleton Rigg is well worth while if only for the grand views exposed of Danby Dale and Danby Rigg to the east. On the extreme northern spur of Castleton Rigg is a large standing stone, bigger than some neighbouring modern stones, which marks the site of Gallow House, formerly the site of a gallows. This house was exceptional in containing a large stone cist placed within a circle of standing stones.

The most interesting houses north of the road between Comondale and Danby End are those with peristaliths on Guisborough and Skelton Moors (which I have not seen, but mention on the excellent authority of Atkinson); those between Comondale and Girrick Moor, especially Robin Hood Butts; and those near Danby Beacon from which there is a magnificent view to the south. Herd Howe near Robin Hood Butts is said to be so-called from the tradition of a hoard of treasure having been buried beneath it; the mound was opened by Atkinson who found therein no less than 16 separate interments.

This account of the Yorkshire Moors would be incomplete without a reference, however brief, to the fine work done recently in the moors of the West Riding by Dr. A. Raistrick, who has placed on record stone circles in that area, as well as some most interesting circles with central tumps, which may be on a parallel with the disc-barrows of Wessex. Ilkley Moor is apparently particularly prolific from this standpoint. Interested readers are referred to Dr. Raistrick's papers quoted in the literature at the end of this chapter.

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- *Atkinson, J. C. : *Forty Years in a Moorland Parish*, especially pp. 135-52 and 213-34.
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- Atkinson, J. C. : *History of Cleveland*, chapter 4, pp. 33-41.
- *Elgee, F. : *Early Man in North-East Yorkshire*, especially chapters 10 and 14.
- Elgee, F. and H. W. : *Archaeology of Yorkshire*, 1933, chapter 6, *For West Yorkshire Moors* :
- Raistrick, A. : 'Bronze Age in W. Yorkshire' (*Yorks Arch. Journal*, vol. 29) ; 'Prehistoric Burials' (*Yorks A.J.*, vol. 30).
- *Specially recommended.

MAPS :

- 1-inch O.S. *Popular Edition*. Sheets 16, 22 and 23.
- 6-inch O.S. *Yorkshire, North Riding*. Sheets 29, 30, 44, 45 and 46.

APPENDIX I

BRIEF NOTES ON MISCELLANEOUS REGIONS

(1) *Exmoor*. Challacombe a good centre; Chapman Barrows; Five Barrows and Two Barrows near Kinsford Gate; barrows near Dunkery Beacon (*Tourists' Map of Exmoor*).

(2) *Farway and Gittisham Hills*, south of Honiton, Devon. Nearly ninety sites, mostly barrows, described by P. O. Hutchinson in *Proceedings of Devonshire Association*, vol. 12. They are all round barrows, and not very prepossessing to look at. One or two have yielded shale cups of Early Bronze Age.

(3) *Therfield and Hitchin*.—The Six Hills (? Roman), south of Stevenage; the Five Hills on Therfield Heath; Long Barrow on Therfield Heath. Several round barrows near Royston, some of which were opened and described by R. C. Neville (*Sepulchra Exposita*, 1848). See C. Fox, *Archæology of the Cambridge Region*, 1923. Many more barrow-sites in this area appear on unpublished air-photographs taken by Major G. W. G. Allen, M.C.

(4) *Long Mynd, near Church Stretton*, Shropshire.—A group of rather more than twenty barrows spread over a stretch of down about 5 miles long near the Port Way, described by E. S. Cobbold (*Church Stretton*, vol. 3, pp. 33-51). Miss L. F. Chitty first informed me of this region, which is one of scenic beauty.

(5) *The Lake District*.—Between Penrith and Hawes Water are a number of interesting sites, including the circles known as Myburgh and Arthur's Round Table; some barrows on Moor Divoek which were opened by Greenwell; the Cop Stone, a stone circle, &c. To the west is 'Long Meg and her Daughters' (stone circle) near Keswick. (*Tourists' Map of the Lake District*.)

APPENDIX II

A BRIEF LIST OF WORKS ON BARROWS

A. GENERAL.

- Greenwell : *British Barrows*, 1877.
 Thurman : 'Ancient British Barrows' (*Archæologia*, vols. 42-3).
 Jewitt : *Grave-mounds and their Contents*, 1870.

B. ENGLISH COUNTIES.

- BERKSHIRE. 'Berkshire Barrows', by L. V. Grinsell (*Berksh Arch. Journal*, 1935-6).
 CORNWALL. *Naenia Cornubiæ*, by W. C. Borlase, 1872.
 DERBYSHIRE. *Ten Years' Diggings, and Vestiges of the Antiquities of Derbyshire*, both by Thos. Bateman.
 DEVONSHIRE. 'Devon Association Annual Barrow Reports', by R. H. Worth.
 DORSET. *Celtic Tumuli of Dorset*, by C. Warne.
 GLOUCESTERSHIRE. *Long Barrows of the Cotswolds*, by O. G. S. Crawford.
 KENT. *Inventorium Sepulchrale* (Faussett) and *Nenia Britannica* (Douglas).
 SURREY. 'Surrey Barrows', by L. V. Grinsell (*Surrey Arch. Collections*, vol. 42).
 SUSSEX. 'Sussex Barrows', by L. V. Grinsell (*Sussex Arch. Collections*, vol. 75).
 WILTSHIRE. *Ancient Wills*, by Sir R. C. Hoare.
 'Ancient British Barrows', by J. Thurman (*Archæologia*, vols. 42 and 43).
 YORKSHIRE. Greenwell : *British Barrows*, 1877.
 Mortimer : *Forty Years' Researches*.
 Elgee : *Early Man in North-East Yorkshire*.

GLOSSARY

- Barrow.**—A mound of earth or stones erected over the burial of one or more human beings.
- Beaker.**—A hand-made pottery vessel used by a round-headed race (called the *Beaker Folk* after their pottery) who came to Britain about 1000 B.C. Beakers flourished between 1000 and 1700 B.C. and were frequently buried in barrows, with unburnt burials in the contracted position.
- Bell-Barrow.**—A round barrow having a more or less flat ledge between the mound and the encircling ditch.
- Berm.**—The platform or ledge between the mound and ditch of bell- and disc-barrows.
- Bowl-Barrow.**—A round barrow with or without a ditch. If the ditch is present it is immediately outside of the mound. If an intervening ledge is present the barrow is a *Bell-Barrow*.
- Bronze Age.**—The period (1000 B.C. till about 600 or 500 B.C.) during which bronze was used for making some of the implements used by man before he had a knowledge of the use of iron.
- Cairn.**—A barrow composed largely or entirely of stones. The word is also used (but not in this book) to denote a heap of stones which has no connexion with barrows and is not necessarily ancient.
- Chamber.**—A stone receptacle made to contain one or more burials, generally having an entrance leading from the margin of the mound, or from a passage from the margin of the mound. Chambers are generally very much larger than cists, but there is no hard and fast division between chambers and cists.
- Cinerary Urn.**—An urn made to contain a human cremation. The urn may be of hand-made pottery (Bronze Age), wheel-made pottery (Early Iron Age or Saxon), or glass (Roman).
- Cist.**—A pit or receptacle for a burial. It differs from most chambers in having no entrance. It is four-sided and entirely closed up like a box, and is normally much smaller than the burial-chamber.
- Disc-Barrow.**—A barrow consisting of a large circular platform with one or more tiny mounds in the area, the platform being surrounded by a ditch and bank. The bank is nearly always outside the ditch.
- Food vessel.**—A hand-made pottery vessel deposited with either burnt or unburnt burials. Food vessels are fairly common in the north of England but are rare in the south.

Grave-mound (cluster).—A term used to denote the very small barrows erected sometimes singly but generally in clusters during the Early Iron Age and the Saxon period.

Hone, Howe.—A term used chiefly in Yorkshire to denote a barrow.

Incense cup.—A small vessel generally with holes in the sides, found with some burnt burials. It was probably used in the rite of cremation, during the Early and Middle Bronze Age (1600-900 B.C.).

Inhumation.—Burial of part or all of the skeleton, unburnt.

Iron Age, or Early Iron Age.—A period between the Bronze Age and the Roman period; that portion of the pre-Roman period during which the use of iron was known (550 B.C.—circa 55 A.D.).

Kistvaen.—A stone cist. This term was widely used by eighteenth and nineteenth century antiquaries and is still prevalent in certain areas especially in the west, notably on Dartmoor; but the term is archaic and will probably fall out of use and be replaced by *stone cist*.

Long Barrow.—A burial-mound originally probably rectangular but now generally weathered into an elongated oval shape. Nearly all long barrows belong to the Neolithic, or New Stone Age.

Neolithic Age.—The New Stone Age, after the Ice Age and before the Bronze Age.

Peristalith (accent on the second syllable).—A row of stones set round the margin of some long and round barrows. Round barrows with peristaliths are common on the Yorkshire Moors.

Platform-Barrow.—A round barrow with a flat top.

Primary Burial.—The original burial for which a barrow was first erected.

Ring-mound (-barrow).—An earthen bank arranged in a circular form, generally having a ditch inside or outside of the bank. Some are barrows and some are not.

Round Barrow.—A circular burial-mound, used during all periods from the earliest Bronze Age to Saxon times. A surrounding ditch may or may not be present.

Secondary Burials.—Burials subsequent or subordinate to that for which the barrow was made.

Stone Age.—The period during which the use of metals was unknown (see also *Neolithic Age*).

Tumulus (plural *tumuli*).—A barrow (or barrows). Barrows are marked as tumuli on nearly all the Ordnance Survey maps. Some writers use the word *tumulus* to denote a mound of any kind whether sepulchral or not, and confine the word *barrow* to proved burial-mounds. *Tumulus* is Latin for a mound. *Tumular* = (an area) prolific in tumuli.

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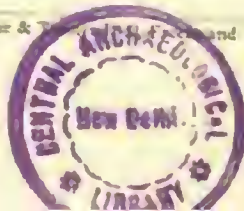
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All the ground-photographs are by the author

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INTRODUCTION

Time, which antiquates Antiquities, and hath an Art to make Dust of all things, hath yet spared these minor Monuments.—SIR T. BROWNE, *Urne-Buriall*, 1658.

Such traces are fortunately of a character that time has dealt leniently with; and would it could be said that man had been equally considerate.—C. WARNE, *Celtic Tumuli of Dorset*, p. 1.

IN many countries and at many periods the custom has prevailed of burying the dead under heaps of earth or stones known as burial-mounds or barrows. It is from these mounds of earth or stone that the archaeologist has obtained much of the material by means of which he is reconstructing the past history of the human race. The study of ancient barrows is a vast one, for in England alone the number of barrows may be roughly estimated at between thirty and forty thousand. Mr. F. Elgee estimates about ten thousand of them on the Yorkshire moors. The literature of the subject is equally vast and is scattered through the proceedings of learned societies, the various county and local histories, and a large number of other works. It is the object of this book to place the gist of this very scattered information in a readily accessible form, and in an up to date and popular way.

A barrow is simply a mound of earth or stones thrown up over the burial of one or more human beings. Examples composed entirely or mainly of stones are called cairns. Barrows are known under various other names in different localities (see Chapter IV). On the Ordnance Survey maps they are marked in Old English lettering as tumuli, except when they have a definite local name, as for example Wayland's Smithy in Berkshire, or Minninglow in Derbyshire. The local name is then given and is generally followed by the word 'tumulus' in brackets.

The custom of erecting mounds of earth or stone over the dead is of great antiquity. In the Old Stone Age there is evidence of intentional burial of the dead, accompanied by grave-goods, perhaps intended for use in the future life; but these burials were generally made in caves, and so far as the writer is aware none of the known burials in the Old Stone Age were covered by mounds.

The earliest British barrow is almost certainly the long barrow, but this may have been derived from earlier examples in Brittany and elsewhere. British long barrows are generally considered to date from about 2200 B.C. until about 1700 B.C., although some students are inclined to place nearly all of the long barrows round about 2000 B.C. It is possible that in the west of England, especially the Cotswolds, long barrows continued to be erected after the Bronze Age had started about 1900 B.C., in the south-eastern counties. The broad-headed Early Bronze Age people, known as 'Beaker Folk', from the hand-made pottery vessels they made, introduced the round barrow into this country about 1900 B.C., and this shape of barrow flourished, off and on, until shortly after A.D. 742 when Archbishop Cuthbert established Christian cemeteries in Britain.

It is probable that all the long barrows and most of the round ones were intended for burial of the nobility of the time. The long barrows frequently contain burials of people who are thought to have been slaves sacrificed at the burial of their chief. Some of the *smaller* round barrows of the Bronze Age may have been erected for the common people, and Early Iron Age and Saxon clusters of grave-mounds were also doubtless intended for burial of the ordinary folk.

Barrows of nearly all kinds tend to be on the tops of hills. Those of the Stone and Bronze Ages are almost confined to hilltops. Some of the Roman ones are in valleys or on level country but near Roman roads, while Saxon barrows are often on hill *slopes*. But it is extremely hazardous to try to date a barrow merely by its situation.

On the chalk downs of Wessex, and to some extent in the outlying country, barrows assume a great variety of forms. Most are shaped like inverted bowls and are therefore called bowl-barrows. Others having a ledge between the mound

and the surrounding ditch look like an old-fashioned bell, and are therefore known as bell-barrows. Those with a very small central mound on a very wide area surrounded by a ditch and bank have the appearance of a large disc, and are called disc-barrows. Bowl-barrows with flat tops are known as 'table-' or more usually 'platform-' barrows. These types and many others will be discussed more fully in Chapter I.

THE HISTORY OF BARROW-STUDY

At this stage of our inquiry, it may be opportune to review briefly the history of the study of English barrows.

Early and medieval investigations and references to barrows were industriously collected by Camden and incorporated in his *Britannia* (1587, 1st ed.). In this work he referred to the Hurlers, Cornwall; barrows on the downs of Dorset; Stonehenge; Silbury; the Rollright Stones; Kit's Coty and Julaber's Grave in Kent; and the Roman barrows at Bartlow and the Stevenage 'Six Hills'.

About seventy years after the publication of Camden's *Britannia*, the finding of some 'sad and sepulchral Pitchers' in Norfolk inspired Sir Thomas Browne, author of the *Religio Medici*, to write a quaint but beautiful discourse on *Urne-Buriall* which remains to this day a literary classic. The work is full of beautiful passages, and also contains a wealth of learning and eloquence, and is full of reflections on life and death, and the future life.

'Were the Happinesse of the next World as closely apprehended as the Felicities of this, it were a Martyrdome to live.'

'If we begin to die when we live, and long life be but a prolongation of death, our Life is a sad composition.'

'We live with Death, and die not in a moment. How many Pulses made up the life of Methuselah, were work for Archimedes; Common Counters summe up the life of Moses his man.'

'Vain ashes! which in the oblivion of Names, Persons, Times, and Sexes, have found unto themselves a fruitless Continuation, and only arise unto late posterity as Emblems of mortall Vauities.'

Browne 'thought he had taken leave of Urnes' when some more were found at Brampton in 1667, and gave rise to a Discourse on *Brampton Urnes*. Browne also wrote a *Tract of Artificial Hills, Mounts or Burrows*, which concludes with the

striking passage, 'Obelisks have their term, and pyramids will tumble, but these mountainous monuments may stand and are like to have the same period with the earth'.

The next enthusiast was John Aubrey (1626-97) who travelled about the country looking for antiquities of many kinds, and wrote the *Monumenta Britannica*, the largely unpublished MSS. of which is in the Bodleian Library. He 'discovered' Avebury. Some of his notes on barrows are incorporated in Gibson's 1695 English version of Camden's *Britannia*.

Next came Dr. W. Stukeley, who wrote *Stonehenge, Abury*, and the *Itinerarium Curiosum*. The intent of the latter was 'to oblige the curious in the Antiquity of Brittain. 'Tis an account of places and things upon inspection, not compil'd from others labors, or travels in ones study'. His archaeological writings are among the strangest known mixtures of accurate observation and the wildest imagination. Druids and serpents formed no small part of his theories. His originality and talented pen begat some quaint 'drafts', 'prospects', and 'ground-plotts' of the various monuments he visited, which included Kit's Coty, the Rollright Stones, the Devil's Den near Marlborough, Silbury Hill, and various barrows in Wiltshire and elsewhere. Possessed of the courage of his convictions, he had no hesitation in labelling, according to his fancy, different barrows as belonging to Druids, Arch-Druids, Bards, Priests, Priestesses, Kings, and so on. To his contemporaries he was 'the Archdruid'. In his garden at Grantham he had a 'temple of the Druids' complete with an apple-tree overgrown with mistletoe in the centre. He became a freemason in order to get further insight into 'the remains of the mysterys of the antients'. Stukeley is certainly the most picturesque figure in the history of English archaeology.

Between 1757 and 1773, Rev. Bryan Faussett, of Heppington, Kent, spent much time in exploring a number of grave-mounds, mostly Saxon, on the Kentish downs. He did as much as any one to prove, in his own words, that the interred 'were not slain in battle, as many have erroneously surmised, but that they were . . . neither more nor less than the peaceable inhabitants of the neighbouring village or villages'.

Previous to Faussett's time most students believed that barrows were erected over those slain in battles—a view which Faussett demonstrated to be mistaken. Faussett's work, the *Inventorium Sepulchrale*, was not published until nearly a century after his death.

The Rev. J. Douglas, author of *Nenia Britannica*, started a few years later than Faussett in exploring Saxon and other grave-mounds in different parts of Kent. The researches of Faussett and Douglas showed that most of the Kentish clusters of small circular grave-mounds could be dated between the fifth and eighth centuries A.D., and were Saxon. Douglas was somewhat eccentric, and is said to have kept a donkey which he painted with spots of different colours.

William Cunnington (1754–1810) took an interest first in geology and later in Wiltshire antiquities. He became sufficiently enthusiastic to start opening barrows, but lived at a time when excavation methods were poor. As time went on his methods improved, and eventually he became acquainted with Sir Richard Colt Hoare, inducing him to give up game-hunting in favour of barrow-hunting and barrow-digging. Hoare had ample means, leisure, and enthusiasm, and co-operated with Cunnington in a series of excavations of barrows, camps and other ancient sites in Wiltshire. The results of their researches were written up by Sir Richard Colt Hoare and published in two beautiful folio volumes entitled *Ancient Wiltshire*, the first of which Hoare dedicated to Cunnington. These two volumes, which describe excavations of a large number of barrows on Salisbury Plain, where they are most abundant and in greatest variety, must needs form the basis for all subsequent study of the subject. It must be admitted that the excavation methods of Cunnington and Hoare would not satisfy the meticulous archaeologists of the present day; but the fact remains that Cunnington and Hoare were more advanced than their predecessors, and if we are more advanced than Cunnington and Hoare it is because we stand on their shoulders and see farther. *Ancient Wiltshire*, as well as being a great antiquarian work, has literary merit and contains a large number of illustrations of considerable beauty.

The researches of Charles Warne in Dorset were not so

extensive as those of Cunnington and Hoare, but he succeeded in producing *The Celtic Tumuli of Dorset*, a work on barrows written in a style calculated to appeal to the general reader interested in things antiquarian. His work therefore makes more interesting reading than some archaeological books, but as an archaeological work it is definitely inferior to Hoare's *Ancient Wiltshire*. It is, however, a very useful work, and indispensable to the student of Dorset barrows.

Contemporary with Warne were the two Batemans (father and son), Carrington and Ruddock, who opened barrows in Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Yorkshire between 1820 and 1858. The results were published by Thomas Bateman in *Vestiges of the Antiquities of Derbyshire and Ten Years' Diggings*. The latter work is mainly a record of excavation of barrows in the three counties mentioned, but it includes valuable appendices dealing with aspects of barrow-study: e.g., a list of skulls, skeletons and separate bones from the mounds, a study of the pottery found in the barrows, and a list of barrows in the counties in question distinguished by local names.

Llewellyn Jewitt, who excavated some barrows in Yorkshire, was the first to attempt a general book on barrows, which he called *Grave-Mounds and their Contents*. His work is a simply-written and useful guide to the subject, but it is focused chiefly on examples in Yorkshire, Derbyshire and other northern counties. He does, however, discuss briefly the chambered tumuli of the Channel Islands, Ireland and various parts of England; the stone circles, the Roman barrows at Bartlow in Essex, and the remains from the Saxon grave-mounds in Kent and elsewhere. The greater portion of his work, however, deals not so much with grave-mounds as with their contents.

We now come to the great Dr. John Thurnam, Medical Superintendent of the Wiltshire County Asylum, Devizes, who spent nearly the whole of his spare time over many years in studying and excavating barrows, mostly in Wessex. He brought to the task a profound knowledge of human anatomy, especially craniology, which nearly all his predecessor barrow-students lacked. He was the joint author with Dr. J. B. Davis of *Crania Britannica*, a study of the skulls of

prehistoric man. If genius be an infinite capacity for taking pains, Thurnam was indeed a great genius, for his monumental papers on 'Ancient British Barrows' in Volumes 42 and 43 of the *Archæologia* are obviously the results of a colossal amount of industry and patience. In these two papers Thurnam collected together with great thoroughness nearly all the information, both published and in manuscript, of his predecessors and contemporaries, and supplementing this by his own extensive researches, welded all the material into a whole, and so laid the solid foundations of the science of barrow-study. He was probably by far the most eminent authority on prehistoric barrows and burial who has ever lived. One of his leading characteristics was a very sound and careful judgement, and extreme care for minute detail. No one has ever been a safer and more reliable authority on barrows than Thurnam. He wisely based his researches largely on the barrows of Wessex, where they exist in the greatest number and variety.

Meanwhile three other distinguished workers were pursuing their researches along different lines. Rev. W. C. Lukis was making careful studies and surveys of barrows and rude stone monuments of Brittany, the Channel Islands, Cornwall and elsewhere. A fine example of his work is his book on the *Rude Stone Monuments of Cornwall*, a beautifully produced quarto volume containing a series of delicately drawn plans and sections of the monuments, mostly sepulchral, of that county, where he had the assistance of W. C. Borlase the younger, who wrote a book on Cornish barrows entitled *Naenia Cornubiæ*. Canon William Greenwell was opening with considerable care a large number of barrows in Yorkshire and a few in several other counties as well, and in 1877 he published *British Barrows*, a large part of which work is concerned with Yorkshire. In 1890 he published an article in the *Archæologia*, Volume 52, on his researches subsequent to the publication of *British Barrows*. He died in 1918 at the ripe age of 98 and was active till the last. The work of Greenwell is of very great value, and his book on *British Barrows* is perhaps the best known book on the subject. Contemporary with Lukis and Greenwell was Lieut.-General Pitt-Rivers, who vastly improved methods of survey and

excavation. His excavation of Wor Barrow, a long barrow on Cranborne Chase in Dorset, is a model for all students. He opened several other barrows in different parts of the country, but he was mainly concerned with ancient earthworks of other kinds.

'Mortimer of Fimber' conducted excavations of 300 barrows in the Yorkshire Wolds, a few years after Greenwell had been working in a different part of the Wolds. Mortimer published his results in *Forty Years' Researches* . . . , a monumental work almost interleaved with very fine drawings by his daughter. So great was his fame as a prehistorian in Yorkshire that the flint axes and other implements found by the countryfolk came to be known as 'Mortimers.' He and Greenwell stand together as the two great authorities on the barrows of the Yorkshire Wolds.

About 1880 the Devonshire Association for the Advancement of Science founded a Barrow Committee, under the secretaryship of Mr. R. N. Worth. This committee published annual reports under his secretaryship until he died in about 1896, when his son, Mr. R. Hansford Worth continued the secretaryship until the present day. About fifty annual reports on Dartmoor barrows have been published and the work is quite unparalleled by that of any other area in England. The two Worths have certainly made a most intimate study not only of the barrows, cairns and stone cists, but also of the stone circles, stone rows, hut circles, and other antiquities and geology of Dartmoor. Of special note is the twenty-first Report of the Barrow Committee (1902), which consists of a summary of the previous twenty reports and is a masterly exposition of the subject of Dartmoor sepulchral monuments.

Perhaps the most outstanding work on barrows during the last thirty years has been done by Mr. O. G. S. Crawford. Mr. Crawford has been largely instrumental in making three important contributions to barrow-study—the use of air-photography in revealing unsuspected sites and getting a new view of those already known; the application of percussion, or ramming, in determining the presence or absence of obliterated ditches around mounds; and the importance of producing and studying distribution-maps of the barrows of

different types. He has written an important (though rather brief) article on Barrows, published in *Antiquity*, and a much more important book on *The Long Barrows of the Cotswolds*, and has done a great deal of work in connexion with the production of Ordnance Survey Professional Papers on the long barrows of the Cotswolds and of Kent and Sussex, and also the Ordnance Survey map of Neolithic Wessex.

Among other contemporaries the following are of some importance. Dr. G. B. Grundy has been studying the Saxon Land Charters of the different counties and thereby making accessible references in the charters to barrows; Dr. Allen Mawer and Professor F. M. Stenton have been studying the place-names of several counties and elucidating names relating to barrows and other earthworks. Mr. C. W. Phillips has been discovering and studying long barrows and other barrows in Lincolnshire. Mr. Heywood Sumner has done much valuable work in the New Forest and Cranborne Chase. The late A. Hadrian Allcroft wrote two erudite volumes on *The Circle and the Cross* in which he attempted to show that the barrow evolved into the meeting-place and open-air pulpit and was frequently the site of the early Saxon churches, which were sometimes built on or near barrows which were already sacred ground. Important recent work has been done on barrows in Yorkshire by Mr. and Mrs. Elgee, Derbyshire by Mr. J. P. Henthcote, and Somerset by E. K. Tratman and H. Taylor of the Bristol University Spelæological Society

LITERATURE :

Walters, H. B. : *The English Antiquaries*, 1034.

• PART I
ASPECTS OF BARROW-STUDY

CHAPTER I

TYPE AND CHRONOLOGY

A great obscurity herein, because no Medall or Emperour's Coin enclosed, which might denote the dates of their Interments.

SIR THOMAS BROWNE, *Urne-Buriall*, 1658, Chapter II.

It was pointed out in the Introduction that the earliest-known British barrows are of the long type, and these are considered to have been erected about 2000 B.C.

Long Barrows are mounds of earth or stone varying in length generally between 75 and 300 feet, and in width between 45 and 100 feet. Their height tends to be between 4 and 12 feet, and the mounds are most frequently placed with the higher and wider end at the east, north-east or south-east, but there are some exceptions to this generalization. Long barrows are of various kinds. In districts where large blocks of stone were easily obtainable, long barrows have internal stone structures and are therefore known as chambered ones.

The earliest chambered long barrows had at the eastern end an entrance, composed of two uprights and a capstone, leading to a passage underneath the mound. On the flanksides of this passage were little rooms or recesses, known as chambers, where the burials were placed. Sometimes, as at Coldrum in Kent, the entrance led direct to a burial-chamber without any intervening passage. Long barrows containing an entrance leading to one or more burial-chambers with or without a connecting passage are known as 'true passage-grave' examples. Perhaps the finest example in England is that at Stoney Littleton, in Somerset. Another good one is Hetty Pegler's Tump on the Cotswolds near Uley. The passage and chambers of both these barrows are still accessible.

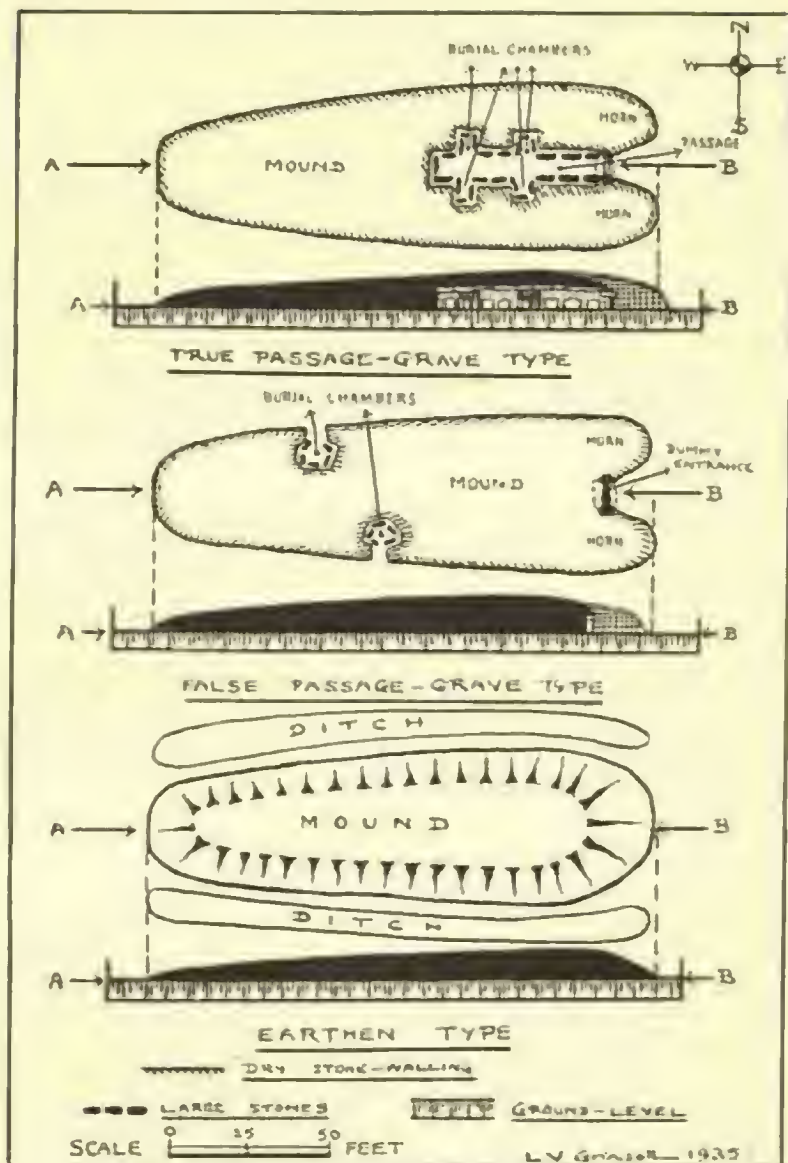
It was found that barrows of this kind could be easily entered, the burials disturbed and the grave-goods taken. In order to prevent this, a new type of long barrow was evolved consisting of a long mound with a dummy entrance, there being no passage or chambers leading from it. The burials were placed in chambers leading from the long sides of the mound. This is known as the 'false passage-grave' type. A fine example, now restored, is Belas Knap near Winchcombe on the Cotswolds.

A still more theft-proof barrow was that which had a dummy entrance and had the burials placed in closed-in cists completely hidden in the mound. Examples of this kind are very rare. A typical one is at Littleton Drew in Wiltshire, where the cists, four in number, are placed very near the southern long side of the mound. This type is probably later than the false passage-grave type, from which it may have been evolved.

In districts where stone was not available, as in South Wiltshire, Dorset and Sussex, the long barrows were composed of earth and chalk, and probably sometimes of wood as well. At the present day the mounds appear to be of earth and chalk; but there is reason to believe that at least some of them originally possessed entrances, passages, burial-chambers or cists of wood on a parallel with those made of stone in the other long barrows.

Apart from a few exceptional cremation-burials in some oval mounds in Yorkshire, Wiltshire and elsewhere, the burials (primary) in long barrows are nearly always by inhumation of the skeleton, which was frequently placed in a doubled-up position, and occasionally had a leaf-shaped arrow-head or two, or a round-bottomed pottery vessel buried with him. Other burial customs in long and round barrows will be described in the next chapter. A fine group of earthen long barrows is near Tilshead, (a few miles north of Stonehenge) and there is another good group on the chalk downs of north-east Dorset between Tollard Royal and Woodyates.

Round Barrows.—About 1900 B.C., a broad-headed race immigrated into this country from the Continent, probably from the Rhine district. These people made hand-made pottery vessels, many of which are gracefully proportioned



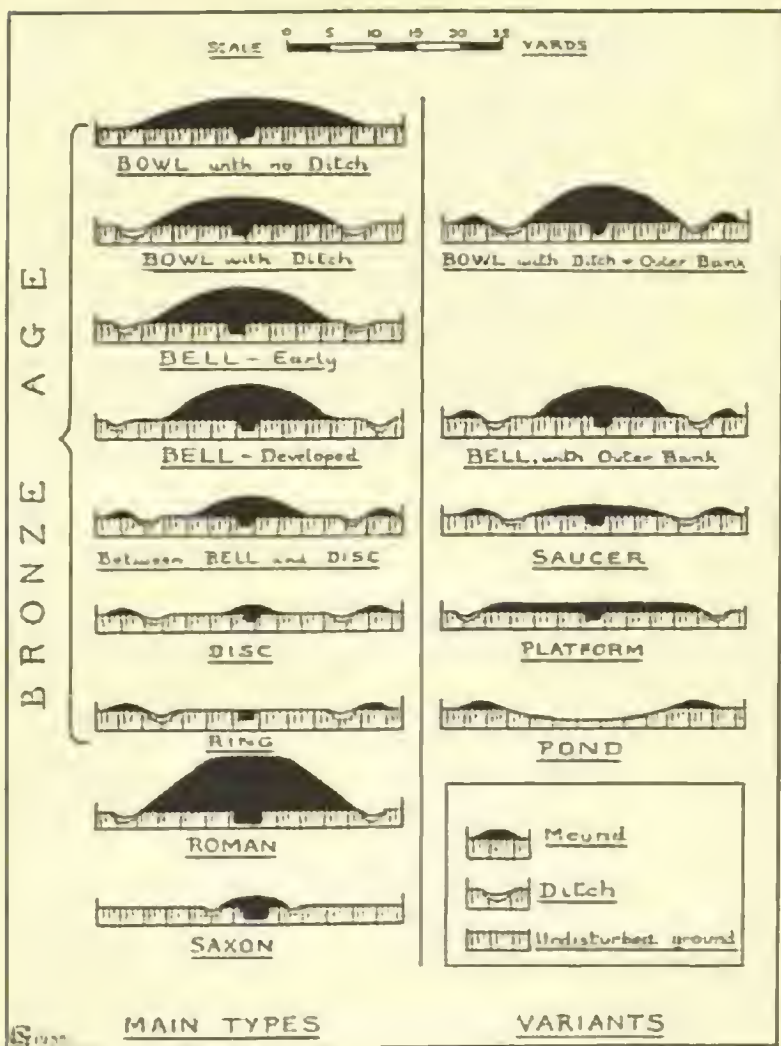
1.—THE CHIEF TYPES OF LONG BARROW

and neatly ornamented. These vessels are known as beakers, and the people who made them are called the Beaker Folk. About the same time as the Beaker Folk arrived in this country, the making of bronze implements was introduced, perhaps by another tribe.

It was the round-headed Beaker Folk who introduced the round barrow into this country, in the same way as a long-headed race introduced the long barrow. The great Dr. John Thurnam expressed this broad truth in the phrase, 'Long barrows—long skulls; round barrows—round skulls.' When Thurnam made this broad generalization he was probably fully aware that it was no more than a statement of a tendency. Eighty per cent. of the people who made the long barrows were probably long-headed, but there were a few broad heads among them.

There is reason to believe that when the Beaker Folk arrived in the southern counties some of them intermarried with the long barrow people already in occupation. This explains the occasional appearance of skulls of long barrow type in round barrows, and vice versa. Also it is likely that a minority of the Beaker Folk had long heads.

Bowl-Barrows.—The earliest round barrows were the bowl-barrows, which date from about 1900 B.C., but continued to be built and used until about A.D. 650. As their name indicates, bowl-barrows are shaped like a bowl inverted. Mrs. Cunnington, the eminent Wiltshire archaeologist, has well said that 'as the shape of bowls varies, so does that of the bowl-shaped barrow'. Some are steep and conical, others are low and almost flat. Some are only about 5 yards in diameter and a few inches high, while others are 50, or even 60, yards across and as much as 20 or 25 feet high. The typical bowl-barrow resembles nothing more than the third of an orange, placed with the convex side upwards, the dimple at the top of the orange corresponding to the slight shallow depression so often seen on the tops of barrows. This little dip is generally where the barrow has been opened; but in undisturbed barrows (which are unusual) the dip may have been caused by an internal burial-chest collapsing and the superincumbent earth falling in. Some barrows were originally constructed with a slight central depression, caused



2.—THE CHIEF TYPES OF ROUND BARROW


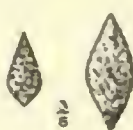

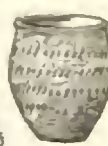

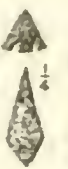










TYPE AND CHRONOLOGY CHART

Period	Type of Barrow	Method of Burial
LATE STONE AGE (NEOLITHIC)	LONG NARROWS { (i) True Passage-Grave (ii) False Passage-Grave. (iii) Earthen	Generally by crouched skeleton. Sometimes by dismembered bones
EARLY BRONZE AGE	Bowl-barrows Bell-barrows.	Crouched skeleton, sometimes with Beaker. Early type—crouched skeleton. Late type—Cremation.
MIDDLE BRONZE AGE	Bowl-barrows Bell-barrows Disc-barrows (?) Saucer-barrows (?) Ring-barrows (?) Poul-barrows	Cremation, simple or in shouldered urns. 'Incense cups' sometimes associated.
LATE BRONZE AGE	Bowl-barrows (?) Platform-barrows	Cremations in barrel, bucket, and Deverel-Rimbury Urns.
EARLY IRON AGE	Bowl-barrows Grave-mound clusters (?) Platform-barrows	Skeletons, generally doubled-up, but sometimes extended. Chariot-burials.
ROMANO-BRITISH	Steep and conical bowl-barrows. (?) Oval barrows Steep bowl-barrows with flattish tops	Cremations in urns, frequently enclosed in sarcophagus of wood or tile.
SAXON	Large conical bowl-barrows (occasionally) Normally.—Grave-mound clusters.	Generally by fully extended skeleton, accompanied frequently by an iron knife and sometimes by other grave-goods.

through the material of the barrow being placed on in layers slightly higher at the ends than in the middle.

About 90 per cent. of the known barrows are of the bowl shape. Some of the earliest examples are thought to have had no surrounding ditches, but this point has not been proved conclusively. Many bowl-barrows have visible ditches round their base at the present time, and most of them were ditched originally, but the ditch has frequently been ploughed over and so obliterated. Sometimes barrow-ditches have been overspread by the spreading of earth from the mound. Ditches around barrows are sometimes interrupted at one or two places, and ditches with one interruption or causeway are commoner than those with two or more interruptions. The ditches vary in width and depth, sometimes according to the size of the mound they enclose. A barrow about 20 yards in diameter and 5 feet high normally has a ditch about 4 yards wide and 1 foot deep externally. If the ditch were cleared out it would probably be about 4 or 5 feet deep, the silting being 3 or 4 feet thick. The earth or other material thrown out of the ditch was generally placed on the mound, which was, however, frequently composed of additional soil from elsewhere (see Chapter VIII, Section I). Occasionally a bank of earth is present outside the ditch of bowl-barrows.

Among the earliest English round barrows, in culture if not in time, must be ranked some earthen examples on the Yorkshire Wolds and some chambered ones in the Peak district. Duggleby Howe on the Yorkshire Wolds contained skeletons of Neolithic type and a round-bottomed pottery vessel likewise of Neolithic type. This barrow, and perhaps Willy Howe and one at the foot of Garrowby Hill on the Wolds, probably represent a fusion of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age cultures. The fine chambered round barrows of the Peak district are structurally similar to the 'false passage-grave' long barrows; the Five Wells tumulus and an example at Harborough Rocks both yielded leaf-shaped arrow-heads and multiple burials similar to those found in long harrows. The Five Wells tumulus also yielded some Neolithic pottery. It seems clear therefore that these chambered round barrows show strong Neolithic influence, if they are not actually of Neolithic date. Perhaps, like Duggleby

 <p>$\frac{1}{5}$</p>		NEOLITHIC		 <p>$\frac{1}{6}$</p>	
ROUND-BASED VESSEL				FLINT ARROW-HEADS	
 <p>$\frac{1}{10}$</p>	 <p>$\frac{1}{10}$</p>	 <p>$\frac{1}{10}$</p>	 <p>$\frac{1}{4}$</p>	 <p>$\frac{1}{10}$</p>	 <p>$\frac{1}{5}$</p>
BEAKERS		FOOD VESSEL	FLINT ARROW-HEADS	JET NECKLACE WHETSTONE	
BRONZE KNIFE-DAGGER					
EARLY BRONZE AGE					
 <p>$\frac{1}{13}$</p>	 <p>$\frac{1}{10}$</p>	 <p>$\frac{1}{13}$</p>	 <p>$\frac{1}{13}$</p>	 <p>$\frac{1}{13}$</p>	
CINERARY URN		INCENSE CUP	CINERARY URNS		
MIDDLE BRONZE AGE			LATE BRONZE AGE		
 <p>$\frac{1}{7}$</p>	 <p>$\frac{1}{10}$</p>	 <p>$\frac{1}{7}$</p>	 <p>$\frac{1}{7}$</p>	 <p>$\frac{1}{7}$</p>	
POTTERY VESSEL AND BONE OF PIG		GLASS URN	GLASS VESSEL	SHIELD-BOSS	IRON KNIVES
EARLY IRON AGE		ROMAN		SAXON	

3.—GRAVE-GOODS FROM BARROWS

Howe, these examples may be best explained on the hypothesis of a fusion between Neolithic and Early Bronze Age elements.

The earliest true Bronze Age bowl-barrows contained the primary contracted burial of a skeleton frequently accompanied by a beaker.

Bell-Barrows.—Attention has just been drawn to the tendency for earth composing the mound of a barrow to overspread into the surrounding ditch. It was probably with the object of preventing this overspreading that some harrows were built with a narrow ledge between the mound and the ditch. This ledge or platform was sufficiently wide to take the soil due to the spreading of the mound. These harrows with ledges or platforms, (or berms as they are technically called) are known as bell-barrows, because in shape they are supposed to resemble an old-fashioned bell. The earliest bowl-barrows are about 1900 B.C., and it seems most likely that the earliest bell-barrows were made about 1700 B.C. Some of them contain burials of contracted skeletons with beakers, which represent the earliest form of burial in round barrows (except those of Neolithic type just described in Derbyshire and Yorkshire).

The later and more developed bell-barrows (1650-1300 B.C.) have a wider platform or berm between the mound and the ditch, and bell-barrows of this kind are frequently of great size, beautifully and symmetrically formed, and very impressive. They are seen at their best on Salisbury Plain, especially on the downs near Stonehenge, and one of the finest examples is on Overton Hill near Avebury. There are also some fine ones near Everleigh. Bell-barrows of this developed kind almost invariably contain primary burials by cremation, which are later than those by inhumation of the contracted skeleton. Those near Stonehenge, especially on Normanton and other downs south of that monument, have yielded a rich array of grave-goods including gold ornaments, amber beads and trinkets, as well as the usual bronze knife-laggers which are common in barrows of other districts.

In constructing bell-barrows, the ditch was generally dug last of all and the chalk therefrom placed on the mound to form a crust and preserve its original form.

Barrows transitional between Bell and Disc Types.—Most

of the bell-barrows are on the chalk downs, where it was easy to obtain chalk rubble from the ditches to place on the surface of the mound. When the bell-barrow idea was carried out in the heath-districts of the New Forest and elsewhere, the barrow-type seems to have undergone adaptation to the different soil-conditions. It was no use placing earth from the surrounding ditch on to the mound to form a hard crust, because the earth was of a loose sandy nature. It appears therefore to have been placed *outside* the ditch to form an outer bank. As there was not so much earth on the mound, the latter was smaller. Thus the Heathland bell-barrow tended to have a smaller mound, wider berm or platform, and a bank outside the ditch. Three good examples are on Setley Plain, and two more are on Beaulieu Heath east of the Hill Top. Another is in Deerleap Wood near Wotton, Surrey. The type exists occasionally on the chalk, as for example near Bishops Cannings, and on Huish Hill, Wilts. A good one exists in a wood on Aston Upthorpe Downs in Berkshire. Barrows of this type are probably as a class slightly later in date than bell-barrows, and slightly earlier than those of disc type.

Disc-Barrows.—A disc-barrow consists of a small central mound placed on a platform of considerable area, which is bounded by a ditch with an outer bank. The diameter of disc-barrows, from bank to bank, is usually between 40 and 60 yards.

It is possible that the disc-barrow developed from the New Forest type of bell-barrow just described, which is really intermediate between the bell- and the disc-barrow. A disc-barrow is really a bell-barrow with a small central mound and a bank outside the ditch. It is just as if the earth or chalk from the ditch, instead of increasing the size of the mound, were placed outside the ditch to form a bank; and this in fact is exactly what has been done. But the true developed disc-barrow has a very small mound (or sometimes two or three mounds) on the platform, which is surrounded by a ditch and bank which are sometimes of considerable size.

Many authorities, including Colt Hoare and Thurnam, have regarded disc-barrows as the graves of women, on the evidence of beads and other female ornaments found in the

excavations. One authority, the anonymous author of a play entitled *The Barrow Diggers* (1839), went as far as to call the disc-barrow the 'Female Barrow'.

But as disc-barrows are known to be slightly later than bell-barrows, and as some bell-barrows were the graves of women, it seems more likely that the disc-barrow is merely a late stage in the evolution of the barrow.

The best disc-barrows, which are of great beauty and symmetry, are on the downs near Stonehenge, especially between Winterbourne Stoke and Normanton Down south of that monument. The Normanton disc-barrows are particularly fine. Other good examples exist on Silk Hill (see air-photograph, Part II, Chap. VI), the downs north of Everleigh, among the Snail Down group, and elsewhere. Twin overlapping disc-barrows—very fine ones—are near Scot's Poor Inn, (south of Grafton) and on Setley Plain south of Brockenhurst in the New Forest.

All the disc-barrows for which authenticated excavation records are available yielded primary burials by cremation. Therefore it is difficult if not impossible to tell the sex of those buried by an examination of the skeletal remains.

Most of the disc-barrows were probably made between 1600 B.C. and 1100 B.C.¹

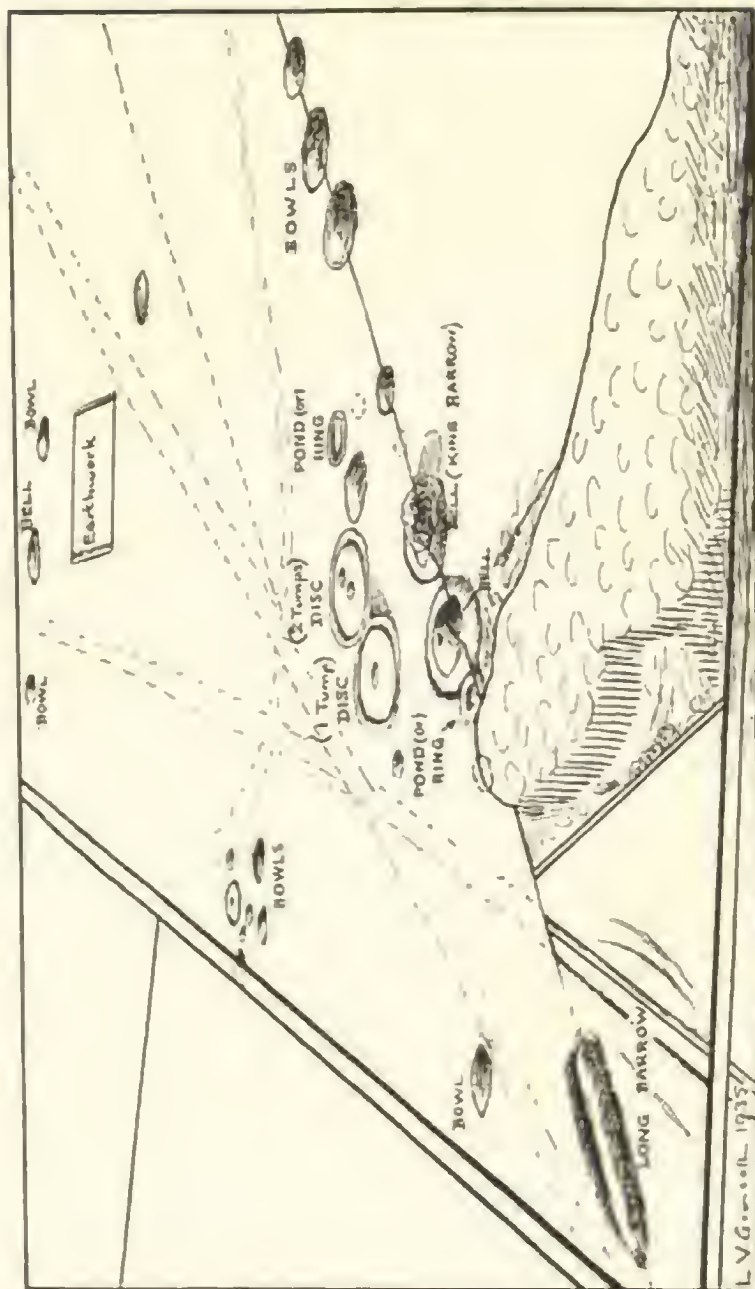
Ring-Mounds.—It is but a step from the disc-barrow with a very small central mound to the ring-barrow with no central mound at all. The ring-barrow consists of a circular platform, generally about the same size as that of disc-barrows, surrounded by a ditch and bank. It is merely a disc-barrow without the central mound; but the burial was still placed in a pit or rist under the centre of the platform.

Proved barrows of this type are uncommon, but ringworks which *may* have been barrows are more frequent.

A. Hadrian Allcroft wrote:

Residence, 'camp', 'pastoral enclosure', temple, place of debate or of judicature—a ringwork may have been built to be any one of these, and possibly to be many other things as well, and for every

¹ The writer wishes to make it clear that the explanation just given of the development of round barrows through the bowl, bell, and disc stages is only an expression of his own personal opinion. It is not yet part of orthodox archaeology.



1.-KEY TO AIR-PHOTOGRAPH OF WINTERHOUSE CROSS-ROADS CHOUF

Showing the most important types of Barrow

L.V.G. 10.10.1935



THE WESTFOURNE CROSS-ROADS GROUP, WILTSHIRE, FROM THE AIR

Showing the main types of burrow



one of these purposes it may have received its consecration-deposit. . . . But to prove it an intentional barrow there is needed something much more prominent, much more central perhaps, certainly much more proportionate, than the thing that served for a consecration-burial. (*The Circle and the Cross*, vol. I, pp. 37-8.)

Thus every ringwork is by no means a barrow. In recent years there has been a tendency to regard certain earth circles as corresponding to stone and timber circles. They would then be considered as places of worship such as Stonehenge and Woodhenge. The Knowlton circles near Cranborne in Dorset are among the most interesting examples, and a church has long stood inside one of them. Other good examples are at Priddy on the Mendips of Somerset.

Saucer-Barrows.—Closely allied to the disc-barrow and the ring-mound, yet differing slightly from both, is the so-called saucer-barrow, which may be regarded either as a disc-barrow with the central mound spread over the whole platform, or else as a ring-barrow with a slightly raised central platform. Two examples, one large and one small, are shown in the air-photograph of the Lambourn Seven Barrows (Plate XVII). Colt Hoare regarded the type as a variety of disc-barrow, and as he called disc-barrows 'Druid' barrows, so he called saucer-barrows 'Druid No. 2' barrows. Some saucer-barrows are as large as disc-barrows, while others are very much smaller. In date they are probably roughly contemporary with disc-barrows.

Pond-Barrows (so-called) are like inverted bowl-barrows. They consist of a basin-shaped circular cavity, surrounded by a lip or bank of earth. The earth from the circular cavity has been used to make up the bank. Excavation of mounds of this type has revealed, as Lord Avebury observed, 'many signs of life, but few of death'. It is therefore doubtful whether they are barrows or habitation circles. They are rare, but generally occur associated with barrows. Several of them used to exist among the Wilsford group of barrows, south of Stonehenge, but these have long been under plough and are now visible only as circular depressions. A very fine example is on North Down, south-west of Avebury. An example resembling a pond-barrow but smaller and shallower than usual is in the air-photograph of the Winter-

bourne Cross-Roads group (Plate II) where it overlaps (and is therefore later than) a bell-barrow. Several so-called pond-barrows are to be seen near the Ridgeway between Dorchester and Weymouth, but they have mostly been ploughed over.

Platform-Barrows are round barrows with a flat top. They are sometimes known as table-barrows, but platform-barrow seems the better term.

There are two main types of platform-barrow—the one with a large mound about 20 yards or more in diameter and between 1½ and 4 feet high; and the one with a smaller mound between 8 and 20 yards in diameter and raised only a few inches above the surrounding soil. In the centre of examples of the latter type there is nearly always a slight dimple or shallow depression.

Large Platform-Barrows are apt to get confused with bowl-barrows which have had their tops removed or truncated; and there is little doubt that some mounds which have been claimed as platform-barrows are really truncated bowl-barrows.

A number of large barrows approaching platform type have been claimed and studied in the New Forest by H. Kidner. Pudding Barrow is a good example. The tops of the New Forest platform-barrows are not perfectly flat, but they are decidedly flattish. Some of them are covered with furze, and not easy to survey carefully. The New Forest barrows of this type are more like very broad flattened bowl-barrows than true platform-barrows of the type occasionally found on the South Downs and elsewhere. There is no doubt that the New Forest was inhabited rather thickly at the end of the Bronze Age; this is made clear by the large number of bucket- and barrel-shaped urns of this period found there. They belong to the period of transition from Bronze Age to Early Iron Age. It is possible that many of the New Forest barrows, including some of the flattish examples, may belong to this period. A few have already been proved to belong to it.

At the same time the available evidence is certainly not sufficient to include all platform-barrows in this period of transition; in fact the type is not a well-marked one and



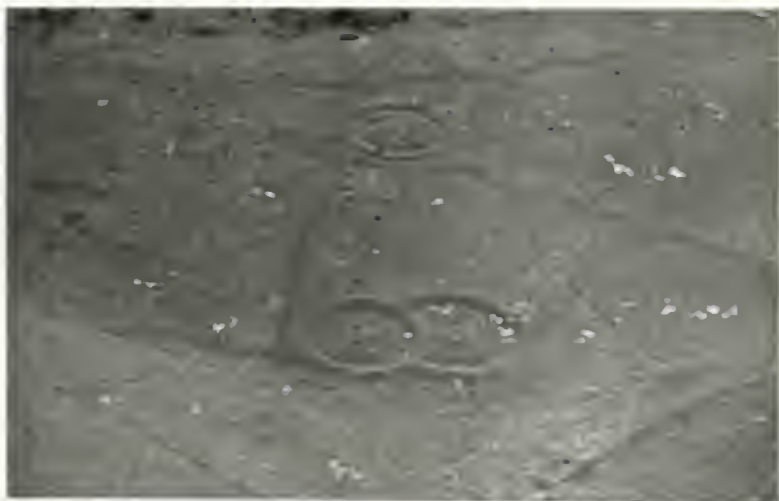
THE FOUR BARROWS, ALDBOURNE, WILTS,
FROM THE AIR



THE SAME BARROWS FROM THE GROUND
The group contains three bell-barrows and one bowl-barrow







THREE DISC-BARROWS, INCLUDING OVERLAPPING EXAMPLES,
SOUTH OF GRAFTON, WILTS



FIVE BARROWS SOUTH OF MAIDEN CASTLE, DORSET
Four of these barrows appear to be enclosed by the same ditch

shades into bowl-barrows. Even many of the best platform-barrows are not above suspicion of having been bowl-barrows truncated.

In Sussex there is a good example on Cocking Down near Midhurst, and a still better one on Race Hill just west of Lewes. Also there are two fine ones on Glynde Hill north-east of Caburn.

Small Low Platform-Barrows, although so-called, may not be barrows at all. In Sussex they generally exist in groups of two or three, frequently near Early Iron Age camps, as at Chanetonbury, Caburn, and Ranscombe. Pitt-Rivers opened a few of them, and finding no evidence of burial, formed the opinion that they might have been the sites of outposts to the hill-forts. At Ranscombe there are two of them *inside* the camp.

An Early Iron Age date for some mounds of this type seems likely, even if they are not sepulchral. They bear a close resemblance to some very low bowl-barrows in the Marleycombe and Woodminton areas of South Wilts opened by Dr. R. C. C. Clay, which yielded evidence of an Early Iron Age date.

Between Horndean and Petersfield, just east of the Portsmouth road and near the turning to Chalton, are two enormous barrows of platform-type, situated a mile away from one another, consisting of a platform about 60 yards in diameter and raised scarcely at all above the surrounding ground. They are surrounded by very wide and shallow ditches. In type they are quite unlike platform-barrows of either type described above.

Pitt-Rivers opened a barrow of platform-type in N.E. Dorset (his 'Handley Down No. 24') and found that although there appeared to have been no burial in the barrow, the ground surrounding it contained a large number of Early Iron Age urns of bucket and barrel forms. Here again it looks as if the circular mound might have been built at the end of the Bronze Age or beginning of the Iron Age.

Early Iron Age grave-mound clusters.—'The Danes' Graves' near Driffield, and groups of grave-mounds near Arras and Hessleskew, near Market Weighton, Yorkshire, have been shown to belong to the Early Iron Age. These barrows,

being small and clustered closely together in considerable numbers, are quite different in appearance from the larger barrows of the preceding Bronze Age, which seldom exist in groups of more than about 20, and which are not usually placed as closely together as the Early Iron Age grave-mounds. It is a convenience to distinguish these Early Iron Age groups (and the similar Saxon groups) by calling them 'grave-mound clusters', reserving the term *barrow* for other sepulchral mounds. Some of the Yorkshire Early Iron Age grave-mound clusters have contained burials accompanied by iron chariots. Chariot-burials are fairly frequent in the Marne area in France, from which district the Yorkshire ones may have been derived. They are of La Tène period (the later phase of the Early Iron Age).

Roman Barrows.—Under this heading it is convenient to include all barrows made under Roman influence, whether containing burials of Britonized Romans or Romanized Britons, or whether made under Romano-Belgie or other hybrid influence.

Roman barrows, in this wide sense of the term, tend to be large and steep. Sometimes they are conical, and sometimes they have a flattened top, but are higher and steeper than platform-barrows. One or two oval barrows (e.g., one at Hyde near Chulford, Glos.) have been shown by excavation to be Roman, and I have a suspicion of a Roman date for several other steep oval barrows.¹

Most of the Roman barrows are in East Anglia. The Six Hills south of Stevenage are among the best known and most accessible. Their Roman date has not been proved though it is strongly probable. The Bartlow Hills on the northern boundary of Essex are also famous, and were opened in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, 'as Camden delivereth'. Most Roman barrows yield burials by cremation in a glass urn, which is sometimes placed with other articles in a sarcophagus of stone, tile or wood.

Saxon Barrows.—Barrows of the Saxon period are of two kinds—large steep and conical ones, in which chiefs were buried, as at Taplow in Buckinghamshire; and very small

¹ The oval shape of the Hyde barrow may, however, be due to ploughing.



A ROMAN BARROW, THE HYDE TUMULUS, CHALFORD,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE



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SAXON GRAVE-MOUND CLUSTER ON DEHINGSTONE DOWNS,
KENT

low grave-mounds clustered thickly together, in which the upper classes and the common people were buried.

The Taplow barrow may be briefly described. It was the low (Saxon *hlæw* = barrow) in which a Saxon named Tæppa was buried. The mound stands in the private grounds of Taplow Court, and was about 27 yards in diameter and 15 feet high. Its present height seems to be about 12 feet. The primary burial was of a male skeleton in a rectangular grave with the head at the eastern end. Among the grave-goods, which are in the British Museum, were a sword, two spears, a gold buckle set with garnets and lapis-lazuli, two shield-bosses, two buckets, and some glass drinking horns. Seldom has such an elaborate set of grave-goods been found in an English barrow.

Most of the grave-mound clusters are (or were) in Kent, but many have been destroyed. There are also a few in Sussex and Surrey, and the Isle of Wight. Clusters still existing in fairly good preservation are in Greenwich Park, and on Brench Downs south of Derringstone in Kent. The latter are on land up for sale as building property (1934); some of the mounds have already been built upon, and the whole group will probably be destroyed within a year or so unless immediate steps are taken to arrest the destruction. In Sussex there are a number of grave-mound clusters between Brighton and Lewes. They have not been properly excavated and hence it is not certain whether they are Early Iron Age or Saxon. Rev. J. Douglas opened some of them and apparently left no adequate account of his work; but he was inclined to refer them to the Romano-British period, to which some of them may belong. Douglas opened a large number of Saxon grave-mound clusters in Kent, which he described in a book called *Nenia Britannica* (1798). Rev. Bryan Faussett also opened a large number of Kentish grave-mound clusters, described in the *Inventorium Sepulchrale* (1856), published nearly a century after the excavations were made. In the Isle of Wight are Saxon clusters on Bowcombe and Chessel Downs, between Freshwater and Newport. In Surrey is a cluster—not a very typical one—on Fairdean or Farthing Downs near Coulsdon.

Saxon barrows of both kinds nearly always contain burials

by fully-extended skeleton, but occasionally the skeleton is contracted. An iron knife frequently accompanies each burial. In the graves of females are often beautiful fibulae or disc-brooches.

Saxon barrow-burials by cremation are rare.

SECONDARY BURIALS

In the foregoing pages an effort has been made to connect the type of barrow with the method of primary (or original) burial adopted. That is to say, by method of burial has always been meant the method of the original burial for which the barrow was made.

Many barrows of all periods contain, in addition to the original or primary burial, a number of later or secondary ones, which may belong to any periods subsequent to that of the primary interment. Some secondary burials may be only a few minutes later than the primary one; others are some centuries, or even thousands of years, later. A long barrow of the New Stone Age may contain secondary burials belonging to all periods from the Bronze Age to Saxon or even later times. Several long barrows have yielded Early Bronze Age secondary burials of contracted skeletons with beakers. Many round barrows of the Bronze Age have secondary interments of Saxon date. A Bronze Age barrow among the Five Knolls, on Dunstable Downs, yielded more than ninety Saxon secondary burials of fully extended skeletons.

The modern cemetery may be regarded as having had one primary burial (of the first person buried) to which have been added a great number of secondary burials. But in the ancient barrow the primary burial is the most important, whereas in the modern cemetery the secondary burials claim prominence, the primary burial having sometimes been that of a tramp, or a still-born child. In the cemetery the primary burial is frequently in the nature of a consecration-deposit.

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THE SAXON HARROW AT TAPLOW, BUCKS



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CHAPTER II

BURIAL CUSTOMS, PAST AND PRESENT

That they accustomed to burn or bury with them things wherein they excelled, delighted, or which were dear unto them, either as farewells unto all Pleasure, or vain apprehension that they might use them in the other world, is testified by all Antiquity.

SIR THOMAS BROWNE, *Urne-Buriall*, 1658, chapter 1

THE contemplation of his dead brethren must have given prehistoric man cause to reflect on the mysteries of life, death, and the hereafter. Whether from fear of the ghost of his deceased relatives or friends, from a desire to perpetuate their memory, or from a wish to provide for them a 'house for the dead', he did at any rate erect a monument of earth or stone over his dead kinsfolk.

Many of the British long barrows seem to have been built as houses for the dead. The burials in them were frequently skeletons placed in a crouching position—the position of the infant in the pre-natal stage. Some have thought that early man, in placing his dead in this attitude, had in mind the idea of a re-birth into another world; one writer has even gone so far as to stress the resemblance of the burial-chamber to the womb, the passage to the vagina, and the mound to the state of pregnancy. There are, however, many objections to this interesting theory. Many authorities think that such an idea is based on facts beyond the medical knowledge of early man. It is difficult to understand how the archaeologist can ever find out *why* prehistoric man buried his dead in this way. It has been argued that the contracted position is the natural position of the body in sleep; it has also been argued with much plausibility that in certain areas the reason for burial in the contracted position may have been to prevent the ghost of deceased from returning to disturb the living. In this connexion it may be emphasised that prehistoric burial

customs were probably prompted as much by fear of the dead as by affection for him. But it may be a mistake to regard the fear of the dead as the *dominant* motive underlying burial customs in prehistoric Britain; for if it were, early man would never have travelled on the ridgeways that are so frequently studded with barrows, for fear of encountering the ghosts of his ancestors. The prehistoric age of many of these ridgeways is, however, open to question, though supported by much circumstantial evidence.

There is little doubt that in prehistoric times there was a widely held belief in the existence of a life beyond the grave. This belief would explain the burial of man in the New Stone and Early Bronze Ages in the contracted position; it would explain the deposit of grave-goods with the dead—flint arrow-heads to hunt with, food to eat, and so on. It would explain the placing of letters (a Gaulish custom) on the funeral pyre in the hope that they would be read by deceased.

On the other hand, some have thought that the grave-goods were not placed in the barrow with any idea of their use in the future life; but that they were placed there as offerings or mementos. In this connexion we may recall the story of the English officer carrying flowers, who went to the cemetery with his Indian friend who was carrying food. The English officer scoffed at the Indian for carrying food to place on the grave of his deceased relative, as if the latter could eat the food. But the Indian reminded the Englishman that *his* dead relative could not smell the flowers he was to place on the grave. The fact is that at the present day both customs are practised with the idea of the goods being offerings. At the same time each custom may be a survival from a time when an idea of a more concrete future life was held, and when simple primitive folk may have had a vain hope that the dead could get satisfaction from food and flowers offered to them. It is said that to this day, in Egypt, a widow may be seen talking animatedly through a hole to her dead husband in his tomb.

This brief introduction may well be followed by an outline of the burial customs from the Stone Age to the Saxon period, with notes where suitable on the present-day survivals of the early burial customs.

In the Old Stone Age the dead were sometimes buried with grave-goods, suggesting that a belief in a future life existed even at this dawn-period.

In the New Stone Age, as has already been said, people were often buried in the contracted position, and occasionally accompanied by leaf-shaped arrow-heads and pottery vessels, which may have contained food or drink. Frequently the custom was to expose deceased in an ossuary in the open air for several weeks or months before burial, and then to place a selection of his bones in the long barrow erected in his honour. The long barrow has been described as a 'house for the dead', in which he would live a concrete existence, needing food and implements as required during lifetime. The chambered long barrow containing internal stone structures bears a special resemblance to one's idea of a house for the dead.

In the Early Bronze Age, (Beaker period), burial was nearly always by contracted skeleton, generally accompanied by a beaker of hand-made pottery, beautifully ornamented in horizontal bands or zones. Sometimes shells of snails and other molluscs were placed before the mouth of deceased, evidently as food. Many barrows with primary burials of a contracted skeleton have secondary interments of cremations. Sometimes these are later in date than the primary burial; but frequently they are of the same period and represent human beings or animals sacrificed on the death of their chief. It must be emphasized that in both the Stone and Early Bronze Ages the idea of a future life was that of a concrete one, bearing some resemblance to life as we know it—that is, if we interpret the material from the graves correctly.

The Middle and Late Bronze Ages.—In these phases the custom of skeleton-burial declined and was supplanted by that of cremation. According to Pliny, the custom of cremation originated from the fear of having the bones of the skeleton disturbed. The skeleton was sometimes dug up and put to economic uses. In the words of Sir Thomas Browne, 'to be knav'd out of our graves, to have our souls made drinking-bowls, and our bones turned into Pipes, to delight and sport our Enemies, are Tragicall abominations, escaped in burning Burials'.

Along with the custom of cremation came an entirely new philosophy of the future life. The idea of a concrete future life gave place to that of a spiritual one, into which nobody or nothing could enter unless it were burnt. Man himself was cremated; his implements, food, and clothes were burnt along with him. We read, in Herodotus, of a poor shivering dead woman who appeared to her husband and complained that she was very cold in the land of spirits, because her clothes had not been burnt and she could not wear them. The idea was that no object could be of service to a cremated human being unless it was burnt and its spirit thus freed to enable it to enter the world of spirits. We have already referred to the Gaulish custom of throwing letters on the funeral pyre, in the hope that when burnt they could be read by deceased.

This, at least, is a philosophy of the future life that some archaeologists have read into the practice of cremation and its attendant customs in prehistoric times. It would be interesting to know how far these archaeologists are right in their interpretation of the facts. To find out what beliefs were held by primitive man is one of the most difficult problems in archaeology.

Although cremation in prehistoric England is generally considered to be later than inhumation, it must be remembered that different methods of burial may not necessarily indicate difference in date. As Windle pointed out, mere personal caprice may sometimes have decided the method of burial in prehistoric times as is done to-day. In certain circumstances the method of burial may be governed by the social standing of deceased, and in yet other cases cremation may have been chosen wherever there was a good supply of wood for the purpose, burial in other regions being by inhumation of the skeleton. Among some primitive tribes men and women are cremated, but children are buried. In parts of Victoria, Australia, married people are cremated and single ones buried.

The earliest cremations may not have been enclosed in any receptacle. The later ones were enclosed in a 'sad sepulchral pitcher' as described by Browne. Some of the German urns are provided with a 'ghost-hole', so-called

from a belief that the hole was to enable the ghost of deceased to escape.

Many, perhaps most, of the English Middle Bronze Age cinerary urns were inverted over their deposits of burnt bones. This inversion may have been done in order to prevent the earth from getting to the bones, or it may have been done in order to prevent the ghost of deceased from escaping.

Some burials of the Early Bronze Age, both by inhumation and by cremation, have been enclosed in a coffin made from a tree-trunk of oak or elm. In the Scarborough Museum is a very fine example of one of these tree-trunk coffins from Gristhorpe cliffs, south of Scarborough. It is interesting to note that either oak or elm is almost invariably still used for coffin-making.

In the Early Iron Age, skeleton-burial returned. The burials were sometimes fully extended, but more frequently they were doubled up so much as to suggest that they were bound, perhaps to prevent their ghosts from walking. In a valuable paper on House-Burial, Mr. S. O. Addy gave (*Proc. Derbyshire Arch. Socy*, vol. 40, p. 32) several instances of precautions taken to prevent the ghost of deceased from walking. 'In several English churches bodies have been found in which the bones were filled with lead.' During the La Tène period (the later part of the Early Iron Age), deceased was occasionally buried with a chariot, perhaps intended to expedite his journey to the netherworld! He was sometimes provided with part of a pig in an earthenware jar, for his sustenance during the journey.

In Roman times it was usual for deceased to have a coin buried with him: this was the fee he had to pay to Charon for taking him by ferry across the River Styx to the next world. This custom of placing a coin with deceased, frequently in his mouth, has been practised quite recently in burials on the Yorkshire Moors and elsewhere (see Atkinson, *Forty Years in a Moorland Parish*, p. 215). In the Western Highlands it has been known for deceased to be provided with a hammer with which to knock for admission at the gate of the next world.

The Saxons did not value human life as highly as their

predecessors, and made little fuss of burial except of their chieftains. Most of the men were buried with iron knives, and most of the women with beautiful and sometimes costly disc-brooches. The Saxon chief Tæppa was buried in his hlaew or barrow at Taplow with a plentiful supply of glass drinking horns and a large bucket which may have contained the wine. If he arrived at the netherworld sober it was a wonder.

We have seen that every provision and comfort was given to early man to facilitate his journey to the next world. Precautions were no less thorough to prevent him from returning to this world to molest the living, if we are safe in interpreting the evidence of the barrows with the help of a study of the burial customs among some primitives living to-day. It is thought by some that the main object of burying the dead beneath an enormous mound of earth or stones was to keep the ghost well buried.

Barrows in Derbyshire, Yorkshire, and elsewhere, have yielded a number of headless burials, and it may be that the heads of the dead were removed in order to prevent the dead from disturbing the living. Traditions are not uncommon of headless ghosts having been seen walking about near barrows; these stories are of extraordinary significance when taken in conjunction with the fact that headless skeletons are occasionally found in barrows. Bateman wrote that headless skeletons are 'not very unusual' in barrows in Derbyshire (*Ten Years' Diggings*, p. 186).

In out-of-the-way parts to-day, people returning from a funeral pursue a zig-zag path in order to dodge the ghost of deceased, which is supposed to be able to travel only in a straight line. Hot coals and other articles are sometimes flung in the direction of the grave by the mourners moving away from it. A terrible clatter is made of drums and tin cans in order to frighten the ghost. In Yorkshire it was formerly the custom in some parts to whisper in the ear of deceased that he must not come again (Atkinson, *Forty Years* . . . p. 219).

Most barrows contain secondary burials in addition to the central and primary burial that occasioned the construction

of the mound. It is important to note that these secondary burials tend to occur on the south and south-west sides of the barrow. It is interesting to note that the south and south-west sides of churchyards are in many districts favoured for burial, and graves are frequently sparsely placed on the north side of the churchyard. The Old English belief was that the north side was fit only for burials of still-born babies, suicides, murderers, and the like. Burials on the south-west side are sometimes so crowded together that it is impossible to add an interment without disturbing the bones of earlier ones. It is significant that the most sacred part of Stonehenge, the Altar Stone, is at the south-west.

During the Bronze Age and in Saxon times the grave-goods associated with primary burials sometimes include necklaces and other ornaments of amber, jet, and shale. Hoare found no less than 33 burials with amber ornaments and 29 with those of jet or shale. Amber, jet, and shale have all in ancient and modern times been held to possess many virtues and properties, including the cure of deafness, rheumatism, and other ailments, the test of chastity, and power to ward off insanity, the devil, and witchcraft. By way of illustrating its properties it is sufficient to recall that the Shah of Persia is said to wear a block of amber on his neck, to protect him against assassination. The amber found in the English barrows may have come from the Baltic or it may be native, perhaps from the coasts of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Space does not permit an account of certain other customs, such as that of having a feast after the funeral, which dates from at least as early as the Bronze Age, the alleged remains of funeral feasts occurring quite commonly in the material of the barrows. Many customs which may be of great antiquity are funeral orations, lamentations, mourning, and the wake or watching of the dead between the death and the funeral. The custom still practised of telling the bees of the death of their owner may likewise be very ancient, as bee-keeping goes back to prehistoric times. These customs are of such a nature as to leave little or no trace in the shape of archaeological evidence.

Let us conclude this chapter by referring to the custom of adding a stone to a cairn as a mark of respect for the person

buried therein. This custom, which is doubtless of great antiquity, is still practised in Scotland and elsewhere. A Welsh proverb of reproach for a worthless deceased, is : ' Not a person will carry a stone to throw upon his earnedd ' (Welsh for cairn or barrow).

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CHAPTER III

FOLK-LORE

. . . dark sayings from of old
Ranging and ringing through the minds of men,
And echo'd by old folks beside their fires
For comfort after their wage-work is done.

TENNYSON, *Coming of Arthur*.

IN this chapter it is proposed to collect together and analyse a selection of the beliefs about harrows held by the country-folk, and by a few of the townsfolk as well. The study of the folk-lore of ancient monuments is in its infancy, and it is hoped that this chapter may provide a selection of raw material which the folk-lorist will find useful and perhaps eventually be able to interpret. The work of the writer has been to collect these items from a large number of sources, and a few of them have been obtained at first hand from the rustics. The items have been classified under the headings of giants, fairies, the Devil and Grim, mythical and historical personages, the Danes, battles, hidden treasure, site-sanctity, immovability of megalithic stones, calendar customs, and miscellaneous items. The task of tracing these beliefs back to their earlier forms, if not to their origins, can be properly undertaken only by those with a profound knowledge of folk-lore. The writer has offered tentative suggestions as to the origin of a few of the items, for which a reasonable explanation has occurred to him. In time to come, when many more items of folk-lore have been collected, it may be profitable to map the distribution of like items, and the study of these distributions may well yield interesting facts. The student of these distributions will, however, have to make allowance for the influence of the itinerant story-tellers of medieval times in spreading folk-lore items from one place to another. Meanwhile, the

following contribution is offered to one of the most fascinating byways in archaeology. Let us now consider the groups of like items, one by one.

1. GIANTS

The association of barrows with giants dates back at least as early as Saxon times. In the *Archaeological Journal*, vol. 14, p. 132, J. M. Kemble mentions *Enta hlaew* (= the Giant's barrow) in an Anglo-Saxon charter. The popular belief in the connexion of giants with barrows is also widely distributed, for in Scandinavia chambered barrows are known as Giants' Chambers, and in Germany they are sometimes known as Giants' Graves (*Riesenstuben*). The small chambered barrows in the Scilly Isles and west Cornwall are frequently known as Giants' Graves or Giants' Houses, and in the rest of England giants are connected generally with long barrows but sometimes with round ones. So strong is this tendency that Walter Johnson's dictum is 'fairies for round barrows, giants for long ones'. By way of illustration we may quote the Giant's Stone Barrow near Bisley, Gloucestershire; the Giant's Grave near Milton Lilbourne, Wiltshire; the Giant's Grave at Holcombe, Somerset; and the Giants' Hills near Skendleby, Lincolnshire; all these are long barrows. Among round barrows we have a cratered barrow near Drizzlecombe on Dartmoor, known as the Giant's Basin, a name evidently applied to the crater on top of the mound.

Closely allied to these traditions is the fairly common story that certain barrows, on being opened, have been found to contain the skeleton of 'a very tall man'. Sometimes we are, in the 'report' of excavations, even told that from an examination of the bones of the skeleton it was estimated that the owner thereof must have been 8 feet tall. Such tall stories are not infrequently met with in accounts written during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Of a round barrow at Lesnewth near Tintagel there was a tradition that a gigantic figure could often be seen on top of the mound.

There is little doubt that, as the great Dr. Thurnam suggested, the enormous size of long barrows gave rise to the belief in their association with giants.

2. FAIRIES

The association, in the popular mind, of fairies with barrows is likewise widespread; it exists in Denmark and Brittany as well as in this country, and doubtless in other countries as well. Fairies are also associated in tradition with other prehistoric objects (arrow-heads are sometimes known as elf-darts) and with natural phenomena (the fungus rings on the chalk downs are known as fairy-rings). They are generally considered to live underground.

The chambered round barrow at Carn Gluze, near St. Just in west Cornwall, is said to be the scene of lights burning and the dancing of fairies at night-time. A chambered long barrow in Somerset is called Fairy Toot. Wick Barrow, a round barrow near Stoke Courcy in the same county, is also known as the Pixies' Mound. A round barrow at Beedon, Berkshire, was said to be inhabited by the fairies or 'feeresses' as they are locally called. An example on Beaulieu Heath in the New Forest was called the Pixies' Cave.

Fairy folk-lore is attached to several examples in Yorkshire. A barrow near Folkton is called Elf-howe and one near Driffield is known as Fairy Hill. The well-known Willy Howe near Wold Newton is also supposed to be the abode of fairies, who are also commonly believed to inhabit the houses or barrows in the Cleveland Hills. A cairn near Hetton, Durham, is known as the Fairies' Cradle.

3. THE DEVIL AND GRIM

The traditional association of barrows with the Devil goes back to Saxon times if not earlier, for in an Anglo-Saxon charter quoted by Kemble (*Archaeological Journal*, vol. 14, p. 132) there is mentioned a Seucean hlaew, Anglo-Saxon for the Devil's barrow. Barrows are by no means the only objects associated in the popular mind with the Devil: many of the ancient entrenchments of this country are known as Devil's ditches. The Berkshire portion of Grim's Ditch is also known as the Devil's ditch, and it is likely that Grim often means the Devil. Among natural formations the Devil possesses a number of Punch-bowls.

In Somerset is a long barrow near Beekington known as

'the Devil's Bed and Bolster'. The association of the Devil with Silbury Hill is described in Part II, Chapter VII of this book. Some three miles east of Silbury is the Devil's Den, the megalithic remains of a long barrow in Clatford Bottom west of Marlborough. In West Sussex is a fine group of bell-barrows on Treyford Hill known as the Devil's Jumps, and the four barrows on Bow Hill near-by are generally called the Devil's Humps.

The following item relating to the Six Hills (probably Roman barrows) near Stevenage is quoted from *Folk-lore* volume 26, p. 156:

Near Stevenage are six barrows by the roadside. . . . In an adjoining wood (Wholmeley Wood—L.V.G.) are seven pits, and one barrow. The devil, having dug out six spadefuls of earth, emptied them beside the road, thus making the six barrows. He then returned to the wood, dug another spadeful of earth (thus making the seven pits) and, walking along with this spadeful, dropped it, and thus made the solitary barrow,

long since destroyed.

Near Swaffham, Norfolk, a shepherd related to a friend of the writer's (Mr. F. M. Underhill, of Maidenhead) how the devil was making a ditch, and cleaned his spade by scraping it against a tree. A large lump of earth fell off, which formed the barrow now known as Hangour Hill. A ring-mound among a group of barrows on Brightwell Heath near Ipswich, Suffolk, is known as 'The Devil's Ring'.

It is, of course, natural for some simple folk to attribute anything they cannot otherwise explain to the agency of the Devil.

4. MYTHICAL AND HISTORICAL PERSONAGES

(a) *Mythical Personages*.—A group of barrows on Brown Down, between Chard and Wellington in Somerset, is known as 'Robin Hood's Butts'. Each barrow has a dimple in the centre—doubtless the mark of a former opening. 'Robin Hood and Little John undoubtedly used to throw their quoits from one to the other (a distance of a quarter of a mile): for there is the mark made by pitching the quoits!''

¹ *Gentlemen's Magazine Library, English Tradition*, p. 88.

There is a very large barrow known as Robin Hood's Butt, near Danby in Yorkshire.

On the Wiltshire Downs above Alton Priors is a long barrow known as Adam's Grave. It was known in Saxon times as Woden's barrow.

A long barrow at Southampton was known as Bevis' Mound; the same name is applied to a long mound probably of comparatively recent origin at Arundel Park in Sussex. A variant is Baverse's Thumb, the name of a very fine long barrow near Up Marden in West Sussex. On the downs south-east of Hill (? Deverill) in Wiltshire is a barrow known as Gun's Church. Some one named 'Old Coker' is said to drive some hounds around this barrow periodically.

Gill's Grave was the name of a large barrow which used to exist near Glynde Station, Sussex. According to General Pitt-Rivers, 'Gill appears to be a mythical personage connected with this locality, and the often-told story of throwing a hammer from the top of the hill is repeated of him'.

Concerning the celebrated long barrow on the Berkshire Downs known as Wayland Smith's Cave or Wayland's Smithy, there are several legends, which will be described at some length in Part II, Chapter VIII (The Berkshire Downs). It is sufficient here to draw attention to the best-known legend of Wayland, who was a blacksmith and is said to have dwelt in the cave named after him on the Berkshire Downs near White Horse Hill. The cave, so-called, is in a chambered long barrow, and is really one of the burial-chambers, surmounted by a coverstone. If a traveller whose horse had lost a shoe placed a groat on this coverstone and went away for a few minutes, Wayland the invisible smith would shoe the horse and take away the groat. The legend is expanded in chapters IX to XIV of Sir Walter Scott's *Kenilworth*.

Julaber's Grave is the name of a probable long barrow near Chilham, south-west of Canterbury. It is traditionally the burial-place of a giant named Julaber.

In the Peak district is a barrow known as Hob Hurst's House. Hob o' the Hurst is supposed to be a sprite that haunts woods only.

(b) *Historical Personages*.—A barrow near Veryan Beacon

in Cornwall is traditionally the burial-place of a Cornish saint and king named Gerennius.

A large bowl-barrow on Arreton Down in the Isle of Wight is known as Michael Moorey's Hump. On inquiry of a local innkeeper the writer was told that Michael Moorey had a cave under the mound. Further research revealed the fact that Michael Moorey was hanged from a gibbet that once stood on the barrow.

Some of the barrows on Beaulieu Heath, New Forest, are in tradition supposed to have been thrown up by Oliver Cromwell. There was formerly a probable barrow in Richmond Park, Surrey, known as Oliver's Mound, and the name 'Oliver's Battery' is applied to ancient earthworks near Winchester.

Solomon's Thumb is the local name of a fine long barrow near Up Marden, West Sussex. It is known alternatively as Baverse's Thumb.

'Whitefield's Tump' is the name of a long barrow near Minchinhampton in the Cotswolds. It is so named because George Whitefield probably preached from this spot.

(c) *Supposed Historical Personages.*—Cuckhamsley or Scutechamer Knob on the Berkshire Downs has been thought to be the burial-place of a great Captain Scutechamore.

A large supposed barrow at Shipley (Leicestershire) was said to be the burial-place of a great captain called Shipley.

Staple Hill is the name of a Bronze Age barrow in the North Riding. 'The village folk will have it that the mound was reared over the body of an imaginary General Stupleton, "killed in the Civil Wars"; and they account for its unusual height by declaring that the general, an exceptionally tall man, was buried standing upright.'¹

5. BARROWS AND THE DANES

There is and has for long been a widespread belief that many barrows were erected by the Danes. This is shown not only by examples such as 'The Danes' Graves' in Yorkshire, but also by traditions of battles with the Danes near barrows in many districts, as for instance on Bow Hill near Chichester

¹ Allcroft, *Earthwork of England*, p. 325 (note), where he suggests the name Staple Hill is a corruption of Steeple = Steep Hill.

and at Borough Hills in Essex. A mound, probably mostly natural, near Oxted in Surrey, has been described as a barrow thrown up by the Danes.

It is doubtful if any English barrows contain primary burials of Danes; though it is conceivable that Danish burials might form secondary interments in some barrows. There are however signs of Danish influence in the Bronze Age along the Yorkshire coast.

It is significant that the counties where Danes have been traditionally associated with barrows tend to be those along the east coast which was most subjected to Danish influence, as for instance Yorkshire (Danes' Graves near Driffield, and Danes' Hills on Skipwith Common). It is in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and Norfolk and Suffolk that the anglicized form (howe) of the old Norse Haugr is still frequently used to denote barrows.

6. BATTLES

The supposed association of barrows with battles can be traced back for several centuries. Among early references we may quote Sir Thomas Browne, who in his *Tract on Artificial Hills, Mounts and Barrows* (before 1682) stated his belief that some of them were 'sepulchral monuments or hills of interment for remarkable and eminent persons, especially such as died in the wars'. This opinion was very widely held until the latter part of the eighteenth century, and it is still held by many educated people and by a large proportion of the country-folk.

A few items will serve to illustrate this point. The Nine Barrows on Ninebarrow Down, Isle of Purbeck, are supposed to cover the burials of nine kings who were killed in a great battle near-by. The group of barrows on Wash Common near Newbury, Berkshire, are said to cover those slain in the first battle of Newbury, which was fought in the vicinity of the barrows. A barrow near Yattendon in the same county is situated in a field known as England's Battle. The Kings' Graves or Devil's Humps on Bow Hill, Sussex, are said to cover the remains of Danish kings or chiefs killed in a battle. A long barrow on Cliffe Hill near Lewes is known as the Warrior's Grave. Near Newmarket are the sites of two

tumuli known as 'The Two Captains'. A long barrow near Langton, Lincolnshire, is known alternatively as Spellow Hills or the Hills of the Slain. Borough Hills (or Barrow Hills) in Essex are said to cover the bodies of Danes and Saxons killed in a battle near-by. A countryman near Danby (Cleveland) told the writer that a battle is believed to have been fought on Danby Rigg (Ridge), and the dead were buried in the vast necropolis of barrows with which the hill is crowned (see Part II, Chap. XVIII). Further illustrations of battle folk-lore could be multiplied almost indefinitely. The battle-tradition has been explained on the assumption that the country-folk cannot understand any one being buried outside a churchyard except in times of battle.

7. HIDDEN TREASURE

It is known that in Saxon if not in Roman times barrows were sometimes rifled for treasure. The Romans certainly opened some English barrows, and their motive in so doing may well have been the search for hidden wealth. The early Anglo-Saxon poem of *Beowulf* contains an account of a search for hidden treasure in a chambered barrow, in the recesses of which were 'weapons and rich ornaments and vessels of heathen gold—watched over, as the story goes, for three hundred winters, by a dragon.'¹ In the paper quoted Thurnam gives other examples of treasure watched over by dragons in a barrow near Ludlow and probably at the great barrow known as Maes Howe, Orkney.

Coming to medieval times, we find that in 1324 a Latin document was issued from official quarters authorizing the digging of some barrows for treasure in North Devon—possibly the barrows near Challacombe known as Chapman Barrows. In his book *Random Roaming*, Dr. A. Jessopp describes similar authorizations in Norfolk, given during the reign of Henry VIII. In 1527, a belief was recorded, in Northamptonshire, 'that there was iij thousand poundes of gold and sylver in a bank besides the crosse nygh hand to Kettering, and that it is in ij pottes within the ground'. 'A man sprite and a woman sprite did kepe the said ij pottes.'

¹ Thurnam, in *Archæologia*, vol. 42, p. 202.

Elsewhere in the account the bank is called a 'hyll' and it may therefore well have been a barrow.¹

Let us now cite a few 'treasure-traditions' recorded in comparatively recent times from various parts of Britain. Money Burgh (Sussex), Money Low (Derbyshire), Money Tump (Gloucestershire), and Money Hills (Hampshire) may conceal traditions of money buried in the mounds (but see the next chapter of this book, section 5). A 'pot of money' is said to have been found in a barrow on Stannon Hill, Dartmoor, and similar stories have been related from elsewhere. It is possible that treasure (especially money) may have occasionally been concealed in barrows for safe custody during the Middle Ages, before the development of the modern banking system.

One of the most astonishing traditions relates to the area near the Cheesewring in east Cornwall. The Cheesewring is a prominent mass of rock on the east part of Bodmin Moor. It was locally believed to be the dwelling-place of a priest or Druid who had a cup of gold. When a hunter approached he was offered a drink from this cup which was inexhaustible. One day a hunting party came and one of the hunters was determined to drink the cup dry. He approached the Cheesewring and was duly handed the cup. He drank and drank until he could drink no more, and then infuriated at his failure he threw what remained of the wine in the Druid's face, and rode away with the cup. His horse plunged over the rocks and the rider was killed. He was then, according to tradition, buried with the cup.

In 1818, a cairn near the Cheesewring was opened, and among the things found therein was a gold cup, of a type known to belong to the Early Bronze Age, about 1500 B.C. There is also a tradition of a golden boat having been dug up in a cairn near the Cheesewring.

A cairn on Veryan Beacon was supposed to contain a golden boat and silver oars which were used to convey the deceased—traditionally Gerennius, a Cornish saint—across Gerrans Bay to the cairn.

On Royal Hill, near Princetown, Dartmoor, is a stone cist known as the Crock of Gold. A barrow east of Sidbury

¹ *Archæologia*, vol. 48.

Castle, north of Sidmouth, Devon, is known as the Treasury, or Money Heap, and a crock of gold is said to be buried beneath it.

Gloucestershire offers a parallel to the Cheesewring tradition. A barrow in this county (site apparently unknown) was visited by hunters whenever they were thirsty. The hunter merely called out 'I thirst!' when a cup-bearer appeared with a gold and gem-encrusted horn of delicious liquor. A hunter is said to have stolen the cup and given it to King Henry I.

A triangular field north of Oakridge, near Chalford, Glos., is known as the field of the golden coffin, from the tradition that a Roman general was buried in a golden coffin under a large round barrow which still exists in the field.

Silbury Hill in Wiltshire has two treasure-traditions to its credit—that a man in golden armour on horseback is buried in it, and that in or near the hill a king was buried in a golden coffin.

On Barrow Hill near Beedon, Berkshire, is a tumulus said to have been erected over the burial of a man named Burrow who was buried in a gold or silver coffin.

Goldhorde Field, near Chiddingfold in Surrey, contains a ploughed harrow in which treasure is supposed to exist. The place-name 'Goldhoard' also occurs in other parts of Surrey.

On Firle Hill, Sussex, is a tradition of a silver coffin having been buried. Similar traditions have been noted from Mount Caburn and Wilmington Hill in the same county. Barrows exist in all these districts, but may or may not be connected with the treasure-traditions. The belief in a buried golden calf is also common on the Sussex downs, notably on Clayton Hill and near Goodwood. There appears to have been a belief in a buried crock of gold in the long barrow in Addington Park, Kent (see Part II, Chapter XII).

An extraordinary illustration of treasure tradition occurred when Rev. Bryan Finnisett was opening a Saxon grave-mound on Kingston Downs near Canterbury. His son found in the mound a gold fibula or disc-brooch, 3½ inches in diameter, one of the finest pieces of Saxon jewellery ever found in this country. He handed it to his father who drove home with it in his carriage. The next day the villagers

spread a report that the carriage was so full of gold that the wheels would scarcely turn round: whereupon the lord of the manor refused to allow Faussett to open any more grave-mounds on his land!

The Lexden barrow west of Colechester harboured a belief that it was the burial-place of a king in golden armour with weapons and a gold table. Excavation in 1924 revealed a bronze table and ornaments of bronze and gold with a skeleton clad in chain-mail and wrapped in tunic of a cloth of gold, according to A. H. Verrill, *Secret Treasure*, 1931, p. 27.

From Mold in Flintshire comes a similar tale of a woman who was passing a barrow and saw on it a man on horseback, the horse being clad in golden armour. A short time afterwards the barrow was opened and found to contain a gold peytrel or horse's breastplate, which is now in the British Museum.

Both J. R. Mortimer and Canon J. C. Atkinson, in trying to get permission to open barrows in Yorkshire, were given the permission with the 'Yorkshire' stipulation that they should hand over to the landowner any articles of gold or silver that might be found.

Lastly, from Fifeshire comes the picturesque story of a barrow called Norrie's Law which was so full of gold that when sheep lay on it their fleeces turned yellow. The barrow was opened in 1819 and yielded silver relics to the value of £1,000.

Let it be emphasized, however, that perhaps not one barrow in a thousand yields treasure. The deliberate rifling of barrows for treasure nearly always ends in disappointment, as well as being a crime to archaeology. No one who is not scientifically minded should ever attempt excavating barrows (see Part I, Chapter VII).

8. SANCTITY OF SITE

While hidden treasure traditions have resulted in the looting of a large number of ancient sites, belief in site-sanctity has had the opposite effect. There is no doubt that the fear that the disturbing of barrows would result in terrible happenings, has been conducive to their preservation. There is a story of a native of Challacombe, Devon, who opened a barrow near-by

and immediately afterwards thought he heard ghosts and horses galloping after him. He became so terrified that he died. Whether true or not, this tale illustrates the way in which barrows are and have been regarded by many country-folk.

The night after Dr. Borlase had opened one of the 'Giant's Grave' barrows in the Scilly Islands, a hurricane blasted the crops of corn and potatoes in the district, and the islanders attributed the storm to Borlase having incurred the wrath of the giants by opening the barrow. The belief that barrow-opening may result in a severe thunderstorm has also been recorded at Beedon and Inkpen in Berkshire.

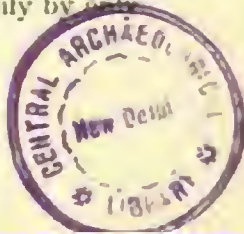
Near Widecombe-in-the-Moor, Dartmoor, a clergyman opened a stone cist which was originally covered by a barrow, and that very night his house is said to have fallen to ruins as the result of a loud explosion.

In 1859 a farmer in the Isle of Man offered up a heifer in sacrifice to prevent any harm from befalling him in consequence of the opening of a barrow on his land.

9. IMMOVABILITY OF STONES OF CHAMBERED BARROWS

Closely allied to traditions of site-sanctity are those relating to the immovability of the large stones forming structural features of chambered long and round barrows. The stones of Zennor Quoit (Part II, Chapter I) are said to be immovable, and if any one *does* move them they return to their former position by the following morning. The Whittlestone near Lower Swell, Gloucestershire, could not be moved by 'all the king's horses and all the king's men' according to Rev. David Royce. It has been moved and is now in the garden of Lower Swell vicarage. A similar story of immovability attaches to the Hoar Stone near-by. Both these stones may have formed parts of chambered long barrows. The cap-stone of the 'Whispering Knights' group of stones at Roll-right is said to have required a large number of horses to drag it down the hill to form a bridge across a stream: every night afterwards the stone moved, so it was decided to move it back to its former position. This was done easily by only one horse.

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10. CALENDAR CUSTOMS

At one time Silbury Hill was thronged every Palm Sunday afternoon by hundreds from Avebury, Kennet, Overton, and the adjoining villages. The Hove tumulus, Sussex, destroyed about 1856, was the scene of village games every Good Friday. The custom of 'making merry with cakes and ale' was practised near the Rollright Stones on a certain day in the year. Not far from Willoughby, near Newark, was a barrow called Cross Hill, the scene of an anniversary festival.

Barrows near Wold Newton (Ball Hill) and Driffield (near King's Mill) on the Yorkshire Wolds are (or were till very recently) the scene of playing the game of Thrown-egg on Shrove Tuesdays. Mr. R. Cousins of Wold Newton told the writer about the former, and Mr. W. D. Ridley, a former resident of Driffield, told the writer about the latter. The game is thus described by John Nicholson: 'Men and youths used to have hard-boiled eggs, which they "throwled" (rolled) on the grass. The eggs were dyed, and he whose egg rolled the farthest, or longest, was the winner.'

11. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

(a) *Ghosts*.—A headless ghost was said to haunt the district near a barrow on Roundway Down, near Devizes. After the barrow was opened and a skeleton found, the ghost ceased to walk. A headless horseman is supposed to ride through the air over Barrow Fields, Newquay, Cornwall, at midnight, carrying his head under his arm; horses are also heard rushing through the air.

(b) *Music and Noises*.—Noises are said to be heard beneath the long barrow called Fairy Toot in Somerset. Beautiful music comes from a barrow at Sidwell Fields, Quantock Hills, at night-time. Music is also said to be heard at midday at the apex of 'Music Barrow' at Culliford Tree, Bincombe Downs, Dorset.

(c) *Underground Passages* are said to exist at Wayland's Smithy, Berkshire, and at Lodge Park and Lamborough Banks long barrows in the Cotswolds. There is also a fable of an underground passage between Eastlow Hill barrow and

¹ *Folk-Lore of East Yorkshire*, 1890, p. 12.

Bury St. Edmunds, as I was informed by someone living opposite Eastlow Hill. It must be emphasized that 'under-ground passage' traditions are very commonly associated with historic buildings and many other monuments.

(d) *Countless Stones*.—The belief that the stones comprising a megalith cannot be counted correctly has been recorded of the Hurlers, Cornwall; Stanton Drew, Somerset (Part II, Chapter III); the Rollright Stones, the 'Countless Stones' burial-chamber near Aylesford in Kent, and Long Meg and her Daughters, Cumberland. Concerning the latter, or 'Mag and her Sisters', Celia Fiennes wrote: 'they affirm they Cannot be Counted twice alike as is the story of Stonidge' (Stonehenge).

(e) *'Midnight Flits'*.—Between Farway and Houlton is an ancient stone, possibly the remains of a megalithic barrow, which, according to tradition, descends the hill and bathes in a stream every night, returning to its original position before the following morning.

When the Minchinhampton Long Stone (Gloucestershire) *hears* the clock strike twelve it runs round the field in which it is situated. When the Whittlestone (Lower Swell, Gloucestershire) *hears* the clock strike twelve, it goes down to Lady-well at the foot of the hill to drink.

The 'King Stone' and 'Whispering Knights' at Rollright are supposed to go down the hill and drink in a neighbouring stream at midnight, and there is said to be a gap in the hedge through which the stones are supposed to pass for this purpose. The same story is told of some of the megaliths of Brittany.

(f) *Human Beings Turned into Stones*.—The three stone circles known as 'The Hurlers' on Bodmin Moor are traditionally 'men transform'd into stones, for playing at ball on Sunday', as Camden wrote in 1587. They were supposed to be playing a game known as Hurling, at one time much in vogue in Cornwall.

Several of the Dartmoor stone circles (some of which are merely the 'retaining-walls' of destroyed round barrows) represent maidens transformed into stone for dancing on Sunday. The Belstone 'Nine Stones' on the northern fringe

¹ *Diary*, pp. 168-9.

of Dartmoor have this tradition, and are said still to dance at noon. 'This may be accounted for by the effect of those

Tremulous vapours of dim noontide

which on hot summer days rise over the moor.'—Beatrix Cresswell, in her book on *Dartmoor*.¹

The Stanton Drew (Somerset) Stone circles, otherwise known as 'The Weddings', are so-called from a belief that they were maidens turned into stones for continuing the festivities of a Saturday wedding into the following Sunday morning (Part II. Chapter III). The circle known as Long Meg and her Daughters in Cumberland is thus described by Celia Fiennes in her *Diary* (p. 168):

A mile from Peroth [Penrith] in a Low bottom and moorish place stands Mag and her sisters; the story is that these soliciting her to an Unlawfull Love by an Enchantment are turned wth her into stone; the stone in the middle w^{ch} is Call'd Mag is much bigger and have some forme Like a statue or figure of a body, but the Rest are but soe many Cragg stones.

(g) *The Luck and Curative Property of Holed Stones*.—The celebrated holed stone called Mên-an-tol in west Cornwall is known also as the Crick Stone, from the belief that children if passed naked through the hole three (or nine) times and drawn on the grass three (or nine) times against the sun, are safe from the affliction called crick in the neck. Similar fables are related of other holed stones in Cornwall and elsewhere. If children are passed through a hole in the Long Stone, near Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, they are cured of, or prevented from getting, measles, whooping cough, and other infantile ailments.

Similar properties are traditionally possessed by smaller holed stones. From *Folk-Lore* (vol. 6, p. 126) we learn that in parts of Suffolk a holed stone tied to the head of the bed prevents nightmare. Sidrophel, in *Hudibras*, could—

Charm evil spirits away, by dint
Of sickle, horseshoe, hollow flint.

Moreover, Aubrey says in his *Miscellanies* that 'a flint will do that hath not a hole in it', as stated by W. Johnson (*Folk-Memory*, p. 129).

¹ *Homeland Handbooks*, vol. 8, p. 54.

(h) *Good Turns by Pixies, Fairies, &c.*—A ploughman was once working near a barrow at Sidwell Fields, on the Quantock Hills. He heard what he thought was a child crying because it had broken its 'peel', (which was a wooden shovel used to put bread into the old brick-ovens). He mended the 'peel' and left it on the barrow. The instrument disappeared and in its place was put a cake hot from the oven of the grateful pixie.

A similar story was related by M. A. Lower from the neighbourhood of Alfriston, Sussex.¹

An analogous story is told of a barrow near Beedon in Berkshire. A ploughman who broke his share near the spot went to get tools to mend it, and when he returned he found that the fairies (or fecresses as they are locally called) had mended it during his absence.

(i) *Feasts in Barrows.*—The stories of the golden goblet near the Cheesewring, Cornwall, and of the golden drinking-horn in Gloucestershire, have already been described in the Hidden Treasure section of this chapter. It remains to relate the story of Willy Howe, in Yorkshire. I cannot do better than give it in the words of E. S. Hartland:

One night a man was riding home from the village of North Burton, when he heard, as he drew near, sounds of merriment issuing from the Howe. He saw a door open in the side of the mound, and riding close to it, he looked in, and beheld a great feast. One of the cupbearers approached and offered him drink. He took the cup, threw out the contents and galloped off. The fairy banqueters gave chase, but he succeeded in distancing them and reaching home with his prize in safety. . . . Now this story, current to-day in the vicinity, is told by William of Newbridge in the thirteenth century.²

(j) *Apronfuls of Stones.*—On Ilkley Moors in the West Riding of Yorkshire are two cairns known as the Skirtful and the Little Skirtful of Stones. It is possible that their names may be connected with the legend of Wade, who is claimed by some folk-lorists to have been the father of Wayland the Smith. Wade is supposed to have constructed a causeway over the moors near Pickering with stones brought by his wife in her apron; but her apron-strings

¹ *Allies, Antiquities of Worcestershire*, p. 420.

² *Trans. Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society*, vol. 30, p. 78.

broke and the stones fell down in a heap; hence Wade's Causeway. At Loughcrew in West Meath is a similar tradition of some cairns in the neighbourhood having been built by the Hag of Beare who brought the stones in her apron.

In concluding this account of barrow folk-lore the writer thinks it well to emphasize that some of the traditions described are by no means confined to barrows. Traditions of buried treasure in particular are found connected with sites of all kinds.

Those specially interested in the folk-lore aspect should note that the regional surveys in Part II of this work contain a number of items not repeated in this chapter as reiteration would result in waste of space.

Lastly, the writer cannot guarantee that all the traditions herein described are still current, but they have all been recorded at some time or other,¹ and nearly all of them have been recorded in writings published during the last century. Full documentation has not been considered necessary as the writer hopes to publish a more detailed account with full references sometime in the future.

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¹ Except those stated in the text as having been collected at first hand from the country-folk by the writer.

CHAPTER IV

LOCAL NAMES

A fragment of history remains fossilized, as it were, in each name.
SIR CHARLES CLOSE, *The Map of England*, 1932

THE study of each aspect of barrow-science is one of colossal magnitude. An adequate study of the local name aspect would involve a search of all the six-inch-to-the-mile Ordnance Survey maps of England, numbering in all about ten thousand sheets, noting all the local names of barrows marked thereon. These local names should then be traced back to their earlier forms with the aid of early documents, including the Saxon Land Charters. The interpretation of these names is another very big task, and can be done only by an expert in place-name study.

The present chapter is the outcome of a careful examination of about ten thousand 6-inch O.S. maps covering England, and of a good deal of subsidiary research as well. Any faults in the following narrative are probably due to my mistaken interpretations of the names collected.

GENERAL NAMES

It is the policy of the Ordnance Survey to mark nearly all barrows as 'tumuli' on their maps, sometimes adding the special local names of the mounds. But barrows are locally known under different names in different areas. Thus in Scotland, Cumberland, Westmorland, and Yorkshire, they are known as hows, haues, haws or howes, from the Old Norse Haugr, a mound or cairn. In Derbyshire, Cheshire, and Staffordshire the almost universal term is 'low', from the Saxon hlaew, meaning an earthen mound. The term is also used occasionally in the southern counties, as at Taplow, Bucks (Taeppa's hlaew = 'Taeppa's Barrow'). The word low

is also frequently used for natural hills. In Gloucestershire and Herefordshire tump is a common barrow-name. Norn's Tump and Windmill Tump, both long barrows in Gloucestershire, are typical examples. In most of the southern counties barrow, burrow, borough, and burgh (the latter especially in Sussex) are common. These words when applied to barrows are all probably derived from the Old English beorg, a mound. It is important to note that both beorg and blaew originally meant a mound or little hill, and were not necessarily always applied to burial-mounds. That is why both words are sometimes attached to natural hills. In the New Forest and elsewhere, tumuli are sometimes known as butts (e.g., Fritham Butt). In the Channel Islands houguc is the usual name, and is derived from the same word as how (haugr). La Hougue Bie is a famous example in Jersey.

Occasionally other names are used. Toot is used in Somerset (Fairy's Toot near Nempnett) and elsewhere. Cop is used in various regions (Adwell Cop, Oxon; Cop Low, Peak district). Mout is found occasionally in most districts, but more often than not it denotes a natural eminence or else a medieval mound and not a barrow. Hill is sometimes found, as at the Six Hills near Stevenage, Herts, and the Five Hills on Thersfield Heath in the same county. Hill is also a common barrow-name in Norfolk, and also occurs in Suffolk and Cambridgeshire (e.g., the Chronicle Hills in the latter county). Knoll is another name sometimes used for tumuli (as at the Five Knolls, near Dunstable, Beds.).

It is not uncommon for barrow-names to be redundant, as in Barrow Hills near Chertsey, Surrey; Cop Low in Derbyshire, both cop and low meaning a mound; Kit's Coty House, Kent, where coty means a house (coty = cottage). Howe Hill and Howe's Hill occur in Yorkshire and Norfolk. Cop-low Hill, Warwickshire, appears to be doubly redundant, but the maps do not mark a barrow there.

PARTICULAR NAMES

All these general names may be qualified by a prefix or by another word forming the barrow-name.

(1) *Personal Names*.—These qualifying words or prefixes sometimes, and in Derbyshire frequently, take the form of

personal names. In a paper on 'The Names of the Derbyshire and Staffordshire Barrows' Mr. S. O. Addy noted that nearly all the Derbyshire personal names attached to barrows are those of men. Among the names he discussed are Kenslow, from a man's name Cyne; Knot-low west of Bakewell from Cnut, a personal name that may have been fairly common, the best known representative being King Cnut or Canute. Minning Low, one of the most famous of Derbyshire barrows, he derived from the personal name Minning, perhaps related to Manning. Off-low he associated with Offa, a name possessed also by the man who gave his name to Offa's Dyke. He also mentioned a few barrows named from much more modern names such as Martin's Low and Pegge's Low. Mr. A. H. Smith, in the English Place-Name Society's volume on the North Riding of Yorkshire, suggested that Sexhowe and Sil Howe may be associated with Scandinavian personal names Sekkr and Sile. Willy Howe near Wold Newton in the East Riding is from Will o' the Wisp who is in tradition associated with this barrow (see the chapter on Folk-lore, pp. 42 and 55). In Derbyshire is Hob Hurst's House, from Hob o' the Hurst. In the Cotswolds we have Hetty Pegler's Tump, named from an early owner of the land in the vicinity. Barrows known as Robin Hood's Butts exist in Yorkshire, Shropshire, Somerset, and elsewhere. The Devil has given his name to a number of barrows described in the Folk-lore chapter.

Adam's Grave is the name of a prominent long barrow on the Wiltshire Downs near Marlborough, and it was formerly known as Woden's Burrow. The celebrated Sir Bevis of Southampton is not without his alleged barrow, Bevis's Grave at Southampton. In Buckinghamshire is Taplow, or Taeppa's hlaew; Taeppa was a Saxon chief whose hlaew was opened and the elaborate grave furniture found therein removed to the British Museum. Taplow is one of the few examples where the personal name attached to the barrow is the name of the person buried therein. In most other barrows the personal names are much later than the date of construction of the barrows to which they relate. On the Berkshire Downs is Wieland's or Wayland's Smithy, named from a figure in early Germanic Legend. A long barrow near Comp-

ton in west Sussex is appropriately called Solomon's Thumb. On Arreton Down in the Isle of Wight is Michael Moorey's Hump, so-called from a murderer who was hanged on a gibbet that once stood on the mound.

Enough has been written to show that while a very few Saxon barrows have attached to them the name of the Saxon chief buried therein (as at Taplow), the majority of personal names are much later than the barrows to which they relate. Sometimes the personal names originate from folk-lore, and occasionally they are the names of former landowners or other people connected with the locality.

(2) *Situation*.—A number of examples in the northern counties are named from their situation, as at Western Howes in Cleveland, and several examples in Derbyshire and Staffordshire (lower low, nether low, over low, south and west lows, under and upper lows, and high low). Situated in a desolate part of the Peak district, at 2000 feet above sea level, is Bleak Low.

Some tumuli are named from the villages near them, as at Duggleby Howe in Yorkshire (East Riding), Baughurst Barrows in Berkshire, and Fritham Butt and Shirley Barrow in the New Forest.

In Sussex, near Alfriston, is Five Lords' Burgh, at one time the meeting point of five parish boundaries and still the meeting point of four. Near Lewes is Four Lords' Burghs, a group of barrows on the boundary of four parishes.

Bush Barrow near Stonehenge is named from the vegetation with which it is crowned; likewise Fern barrows between Dorchester and Canford, Dorset.

(3) *Shape, Size, Composition, and Colour*.—Two cairns in the West Riding of Yorkshire are known as 'The Skirtful of Stones' and 'The Little Skirtful of Stones'. Other Yorkshire tumuli are known as Round Hill, Black Howes, Brown Hill, and Flat Howe. Basin Howe is so called from the basin-like depression in the centre. In the same county is an example called Pudding Pie Hill, which may be paralleled by Pudding Barrow in the New Forest.

From Derbyshire and Staffordshire we have Great Low, High Low, Long Low, and Round Low. Stan Low in the Peak district is the stony barrow. Among colour-names

may be quoted the Black Burgh near Brighton, which yielded a quantity of black earth when opened; Brown Low is in Cheshire; and there is a White Barrow on Dartmoor. It is possible however that these colour-names may be modern personal names.

Among other names may be cited Upton Great Barrow in Wiltshire, the Long Burgh near Alfriston in Sussex, Round Butt in the New Forest, Sandy Barrow east of Dorchester in Dorset, and Old Barrow on Exmoor. The latter is doubtless so called on account of local recognition of its antiquity.

Black barrows exist in several places, but sometimes they are natural (as in natural outcrops in the Isle of Wight and near Bournemouth).

(4) *Use or Association.*—Barrows have frequently been used as windmill-steads, and among examples put to this use are the long barrow known as Windmill Tump, near Rodmarton in the Cotswolds; The Mill Ball on Bury Hill near Arundel, Sussex; Windmill Barrow six miles south-east of Blandford, Dorset; and several Mill Hills in Yorkshire. But Millbarrows south-east of Winchester is unconnected with a windmill, being the *Melan beorh* of a Saxon charter.¹

Among barrows that have served as sites for gallows may be mentioned Gallow Howe in Yorkshire, Gallow Howe near Castleton, Cleveland, Gallow Hill near Salthouse in Norfolk, and Galley Hills near Baustead in Surrey. The Combe Gibbet long barrow in south Berkshire is still crowned by a gallows.

Tumuli have frequently served as beacons. Several of them were used for beacon-bonfires on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of His late Majesty King George V. Tumble Beacon near Baustead in Surrey may originally have been a burial-mound. On the Yorkshire Moors are 'Beacon Howes'.

The possible use of barrows as folk-moots is suggested in a few names, e.g., Moot Low in the Peak district and Moot Hill in Northants. Forhoe Hundred in Norfolk met at the Four Houses, remains of which are still visible.

Bole Lows in the Peak district are named from disused bole-hills (connected with lead-working) in the vicinity.

¹ It is just possible, however, that this may, after all, be intended for *Mylen beorh* = Anglo-Saxon for Mill barrow.

Robbed Howe (North Riding) has a central cavity 30 feet across and 3 feet deep, the result of a former excavation or looting. Burnt Howe in the same county might have witnessed a heath-fire.

(5) *Folk-lore*.—The influence of folk-lore on barrow-names may be estimated by referring to the folk-lore chapter of this book. Here it is sufficient to mention Money Tump (the tump or barrow believed to contain money); Money Laws in Northumberland (this may mean many barrows); Money Hill¹ was on the boundary of two estates, and 'when the boundaries were being perambulated money was scrambled for at the spot, in order to impress the better upon the memory of the persons assembled the limits of the manor'. Other significant names are Hurdlow (the low supposed to contain a hoard of treasure); the Crock of Gold; the Golden Hoard; the Warrior's Grave; the Giant's Grave; Fairy's Toot; Elf Howe; Music Barrow; the Devil's Jumps; the Kings' Graves. Occasionally, as at Deadmen's Graves in Suffolk and Lincolnshire, and Deadman's Hill in Norfolk, the name originates from a tradition (supported by fact) of a man having been buried in the tumulus in question.

(6) *Numbers*.—There is a 'Single Barrow' on Dartmoor. On Roughton Heath, Norfolk, are a pair known as 'Two Hills'. 'The Two Captains' were the name of a couple of barrows, now destroyed, near Newmarket Racecourse, Cambridgeshire. Groups known as 'Three Barrows' are very common in several counties, including Yorkshire where they are of course known as 'Three Howes'. 'Four Barrows' occurs at Sugar Hill near Ailbourne, Wiltshire, and also near Tregavethan in Cornwall. 'The Five Hills' are on Therfield Heath, Herts, and a group called 'Five Barrows' is near Holystone, Northumberland. 'The Six Hills' are the well-known barrows south of Stevenage, Herts, and are probably Roman. 'Seven Barrows' is very common, especially in Wiltshire, Suffolk, and Norfolk. The famous Lambourn Seven Barrows, Berkshire, consists of over twenty barrows. Priddy Nine Barrows are on the Mendip Hills, and near Corfe in Dorset is Nine Barrow Down. Groups known as 'Three' and 'Seven Barrows' appear to be commoner

¹ Greenwell's *British Barrows*, p. 329, No. cxxi.

than those of other numbers. The number of tumuli in the group does not necessarily correspond to the number in the group-name. Peculiar significance has been attached in the popular mind to the numbers three and seven from very early times.

(7) *Barrow-names given by Archaeologists* must be carefully distinguished from true local names. Sir Richard Colt Hoare sometimes opened Wiltshire barrows and named them according to their contents. Thus if he found a rich array of grave-goods including gold ornaments he would name the mound 'Golden Barrow' or 'King Barrow'. An example he opened near Tidworth yielded arrow-heads and deer-horns, and this was evidently the grave of a hunter surrounded by his spoil and weapons; so Hoare named the barrow 'The Hunter's Barrow'. Another great barrow-namer was Stukeley, who called them after Archdruids, Druids, Bards, Priests, and many other figures of his fertile imagination.

(8) *Barrow-Sites revealed by Field-Names*.—It was truly written by J. R. Mortimer that 'the approximate sites of many obliterated barrows seem to be indicated by the names of the fields in the neighbourhood'. Names such as barrow piece, barrow field, bury fields, the lows, burrow hill, five-barrow hill, may frequently indicate the sites of barrows even if the mounds themselves have long been ploughed out or otherwise destroyed.

Near Chiddingfold in Surrey is goldhorde field, so-named because of the existence therein of a nearly-levelled tumulus in which a hoard of gold was supposed to be concealed. A field near Oakridge in the Cotswolds is known as Golden Collin field, from a tradition of a golden collin having been buried there, and the site is known to have been covered by a barrow.

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CHAPTER V

MAPS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

If you will have a young man to put his travel into a little room . . . let him carry with him some card, or book, describing the country where he travelleth.—FRANCIS BACON, *Essay Of Travel*

In the last chapter it was stated that, with a few exceptions, barrows are marked as 'tumuli' on all the Ordnance Survey maps on which they appear. The word *tumulus* is nearly always written on these maps in **Old English** type, but when the barrows are known to be Roman, as at Bartlow Hills, **EGYPTIAN CAPITALS** are generally used. A number of burial-mounds with local names have their local names marked, the word *tumulus* being added in brackets.

THE ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS

At the present day the Ordnance Survey maps of England are almost the only ones worth the serious attention of the student of archaeology. They are published on several scales, those which are most important for our purpose being 25 inches, 6 inches, 1 inch, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, to the mile.

The 25-inch map is exceedingly good, but is unnecessarily large and costly for ordinary work. Each sheet costs 6s. 8d., and covers an area of $1\frac{1}{4}$ square miles.

The best maps for those interested in archaeology are undoubtedly those on the scale of 6 inches to the mile. Like the 25-inch maps, the 6-inch maps are arranged in sets for each county. That is to say, each county is covered by a set of 6-inch maps, the sheets of which are numbered from 1 onwards. Each sheet is divided into quarter-sheets. Thus the Somerset 6-inch Ordnance Survey map No. 1 is divided into quarter-sheets numbered 1 N.W., N.E., S.W., and S.E.

Each quarter-sheet covers an area of six square miles and costs 2s.

All the known barrows are (or should be) marked on the 6-inch O.S. maps, and the scale is sufficiently large to enable the student to add the sites he discovers to the map with reasonable accuracy. Most counties have archaeological societies which have a complete set of the 6-inch O.S. maps of their own county. Some of these societies have means whereby students can borrow maps if they are engaged in really serious work, as for instance the searching for unrecorded tumuli and other earthworks, or the searching of ploughed fields for prehistoric flint implements.

There have been two or three editions of the 6-inch O.S. maps for most of the English counties. The first editions date from about 1850. Later editions, revised, generally appear at intervals of 25 or 30 years, but the work of revision has recently been hindered by the Great War and the world depression, and the latest editions of these maps are therefore not always up to date. When working up the archaeology of a particular region, the student should make a special point of consulting the earlier editions of the 6-inch and 1-inch O.S. maps. The present writer, in his researches on the barrows of Sussex, found quite a number of barrows marked on the earlier editions which do not appear on the later ones.

Most of the readers of this book will find the 1-inch Popular Edition O.S. maps best suited to their requirements. These maps are as indispensable to the Rambler, cyclist, and motorist, as the 6-inch maps are to the student of ancient sites. It is true that many cyclists and motorists are in the habit of using $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch and $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch maps, but these are of little use to the searcher after ancient monuments, the scale being too small to mark more than a few of the more important remains. Very few barrows are marked on these maps.

The Popular Edition 1-inch maps range in price from 1s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. each, according to whether the sheets are required flat, folded, folded and mounted, or folded, mounted, and dissected. Most people use the 2s. 6d. variety, folded and mounted on linen. Each sheet normally covers an area of between 450 and 500 square miles. Most of the sheets,

except a few of the Midlands, have a fair number of tumuli marked thereon.

Some of the best barrow-areas are also covered by the special 'Tourist Maps', which are produced on lines similar to those of the Popular 1-inch maps and are on the same scale. Among the regions covered by the 'Tourist maps' are Dartmoor, the Peak District, the New Forest, and the South Downs—four of the finest stretches of walking country, teeming with places of archaeological interest and natural beauty.

Among the most recent maps are those of the 1-inch O.S. Fifth Edition and Fifth (Relief) Edition. The sheets already published cover some of the southern counties, and they are the same price as the Popular Edition. The chief alteration is in the type used for printing the place-names. The archaeological information is much more up to date. For example, the Addington and Coldrum megaliths, described in earlier maps in error as Stone Circles, are now correctly described as Burial-Chambers. On the Dartmoor sheets the old word *kistvaen* is being replaced by *cist*, and on the Cornwall sheets *cromlech* is being replaced by *burial-chamber*.

The 1-inch maps are very valuable to those wishing to visit ancient monuments, but they are not so useful for detailed original work, the scale being too small to mark newly discovered sites with precision. It must here be emphasized that in most counties there are still a large number of barrows and other earthworks awaiting discovery. The best way to find these earthworks is to take a 6-inch map and work over the ground covered by it very thoroughly on foot, exploring every field, and especially every hilltop. Whoever pursues this course is bound to discover previously unsuspected earthworks, unless he is working an area that has been thoroughly explored by others, and this is the exception rather than the rule.

EARLY MAPS

The earliest important maps of the English counties are those by Christopher Saxton, which date from about 1574 till about 1580. Saxton's maps are of great beauty. They mark county boundaries, towns, villages, churches, woods, and rivers, but do not mark any roads. The rivers are

generally drawn much too wide. The hills are drawn in relief and of course there are no contours. The quaint spelling of the place-names gives additional interest to the maps and increases their value to the student of place-names. The sea is drawn with a plentiful supply of sixteenth-century galleons, sailing ships, and dolphins. Among other early map-makers or cartographers are John Speed (whose maps are largely based on those by Saxton) and John Norden. Speed's maps are nearly always adorned with the coats-of-arms of the nobility of the county represented on the map. These maps of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, as may be expected, have very few barrows marked on them. Saxton's map of Berkshire, however, has Cuckhamsley marked. (On Cuckhamsley Hill is a large mound called Cwichelm's hlaew, or Cwichelm's mound. It was long thought to be a barrow but recent excavation has cast doubt upon its origin.)

With a few exceptions, no maps of outstanding importance to the barrow-student were done until the middle of the eighteenth century. Between 1720 and 1780 Emmanuel Bowen and his son produced large-scale maps of some English counties, and between 1750 and 1770 John Rocque did the same for certain southern counties, including a very fine map of Surrey of which there appear to have been three editions. Several barrows are marked on this map. Between 1780 and 1835 John Cary produced some maps of the English counties, and the late Sir H. G. Fordham, a very eminent authority on early maps, has described Cary as 'the most distinguished of our British cartographers'. These fine county maps by the Bowens, Rocque, Cary, and others are of great value to the student of ancient remains, for they mark many important sites and frequently reveal information which does not appear on the present day maps. Cary's map of Wiltshire, for example, marks a chambered long barrow known as Mill Barrow near Berwick Bassett north of Avebury. This monument is now destroyed. The same map marks the Foss Way, the Roman road between Aldbourne and Cricklade, Liddington and Barbury Camps, the Ridgeway east of Liddington Camp, the Roman road between Bath and Marlborough, Oldbury Camp, Silbury Hill, Sidbury Camp, the

Wansdyke, Bratton Castle, the Westbury White Horse, Ell Barrow (a long barrow north of Stonehenge), Stauchenge, a long barrow near Durrington, a number of barrows near Tidworth, and many other sites.

Between 1820 and 1830 some good maps were done by C. and J. Greenwood. Their map of Berkshire marks Wayland Smith's Cave, Cuckhamslow Hill, 'Round Barrow' south-east of Blewbury, the Lambourn Seven Barrows, Baughurst Barrows near the Hampshire border, and 'Three Barrows' on Wash Common south of Newbury.

Private map-production dwindled greatly as soon as the Ordnance Survey maps had obtained a footing. The history of the Ordnance Survey may be briefly told. After some valuable preliminary work had been done by General William Roy, author of *Military Antiquities of the Romans in North Britain*, Colonel William Mudge directed the Survey from 1798 till his death in 1820. Mudge was an indefatigable worker and the first few sheets of the 1-inch O.S. maps were prepared and published under his direction. The first sheet was published in 1801 and covered a part of Kent. In 1840 the 6-inch-to-the-mile survey of England began, and in 1863 the surveying for the 25-inch maps was begun. In about 1921, Mr. O. G. S. Crawford was appointed Archaeology Officer to the Ordnance Survey and this naturally resulted in the more correct marking of antiquities on the maps. The great importance of the large-scale maps to the archaeologist has already been emphasized.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MAPS

It remains to review a number of very important maps produced for the purpose of showing the distribution of ancient sites. Although maps of the whole of England in Roman and Saxon times date from 1720 or earlier, the earliest important large-scale archaeological maps known to the writer are those in Sir R. Colt Hoare's *Ancient Wiltshire* (1810-1819). These maps are on the scale of 1 inch to the mile and mark the majority of the barrows in that extremely prolific county. There is also a larger scale map of the Environs of Stonehenge in the same work. These maps are

of enormous value for the study of Wiltshire barrows, as they are primarily barrow-maps.

The next map of importance is that of *Dorsetshire: Its Celtic, Roman, Saxon, and Danish Vestiges* by Charles Warne (1866). Although vastly inferior to Colt Hoare's maps, it is delicately drawn and coloured, and marks camps, barrows, trackways, and other sites. Roman remains are marked in red. The map brings out the frequency of barrows in the north-east area and also along the ridgeway between Askerswell and Sutton Poyntz, south of Dorchester. The barrows are shown in elevation, not in plan. The map also contains an inset drawing of the Hell Stone burial-chamber near Portisham.

A more valuable map is that accompanying Witts's *Archaeological Handbook of Gloucestershire* (1883). On this map, which is on the scale of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to the mile, Witts marked all the long and round barrows then known, many of which he had found himself, and along the margin of the map he placed plans of some of the more famous long barrows among other antiquities. The map also marks camps, ancient tracks and Roman roads, and Roman villas. Each site is given a number corresponding to that in the letterpress of the Handbook.

From 1900 to the present day, maps of Stone Age, Bronze Age, Early Iron Age, Roman, and Saxon sites of each county have been published in the *Victoria County Histories*. These are valuable but many of them are already out of date. Similar maps, smaller but more up to date, are appearing in Methuen's *County Archaeology* volumes (1930 onwards). Counties already published are Cornwall and Scilly, Somerset, Berkshire, Surrey, Kent, London and Middlesex, and Yorkshire, and a volume on Sussex is now in preparation.

The most beautiful of all English archaeological maps is undoubtedly that by Mr. Heywood Sumner, entitled *A Map of Ancient Sites in the New Forest, Cranborne Chase, and Bournemouth District*, 1923. This beautifully drawn map by Heywood Sumner, who is equally noted as an artist, archaeologist, and topographical writer, is the result of a long lifetime of research, undertaken by one who has spent nearly his whole life of over eighty years in the region covered by the

map, and has studied it from almost every aspect. On this map he has marked all the known long and round barrows, camps, enclosures, and entrenchments in black. All Roman and Romano-British sites are marked in red, and include roads, villages, villas, sites of pottery kilns, and isolated finds. Post-Roman sites are marked in green. Many of the sites have been excavated and described by Mr. Sumner, who has written several books dealing with this region.

We now come to the archaeological maps published by the Ordnance Survey. These are largely the work of Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, who has probably done more work on English archaeological maps than any one else. As archaeology officer to the Ordnance Survey, Mr. Crawford is a geographical archaeologist, or an archaeological geographer. Largely as the result of his own work, a number of maps of the distribution of long barrows and other sites have been published for different regions. The first to appear (1922) was a map of the distribution of long barrows and certain other sites in the area of sheet 8 of the O.S. $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch map, covering the Cotswolds and surrounding districts. Two years later appeared a similar map covering sheet 12, which includes Kent, Surrey, and Sussex. Another eight years lapsed before the appearance of the next map (1932) which is of Neolithic Wessex. This was followed in 1933 by a map showing the distribution of long barrows, megaliths, and certain other monuments in the area of the Trent Basin (sheet 6a of the $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch map); the fieldwork and research for this map were done by Mr. C. W. Phillips, F.S.A.

These four maps are an archaeological revelation. The natural features and line-drawing of the maps are done in pale grey, the hills being shaded in pale brown. The barrows are then superimposed by heavy black symbols, which show up against the rest of the map which is in the nature of a background. Each site is numbered, and these numbers correspond to a numbered list of antiquities which is published as a key to each map. The maps also have an introduction, generally from the authoritative pen of Mr. Crawford, who gives a brief account of the chief antiquities of each region and their distribution. His account of the antiquities of sheet 12 (Cotswolds and surrounding areas) has been greatly

extended and published in book form (*The Long Barrows of the Cotswolds*, 1925).

It is the intention of the Ordnance Survey to continue issuing maps of the distribution of long barrows &c., in different districts until the whole of England and Wales has been done, when the results will be pieced together and served up in a general map.

Six maps of Celtic earthworks on Salisbury Plain are now in course of preparation, on a scale of between two and three inches to the mile. The first one, covering Old Sarum, has already appeared. All the known barrows are shown, whether long or round, and many of these barrows are appearing on maps for the first time, having been discovered from the air. These maps of Salisbury Plain are based on a large number of air-photographs which have revealed many new and unsuspected sites.

Attention should also be drawn to the O.S. 'Period' maps of Britain. *Roman Britain* has already appeared, and a map of Saxon sites is being produced. These maps are, however, not very important to the barrow-student, except for the purpose of showing the distribution of population during a given period.

THE STUDY OF DISTRIBUTIONS

The value of a distribution-map rests largely on the inferences that can reasonably be drawn from it. This fact may be appreciated best by our passing in review some of the obvious facts revealed by the archaeological maps already published.

The map of long barrows on sheet 8 of the $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch map shows that nearly all the long barrows in that area are on the Cotswolds, and that they are particularly thickly grouped in the well-watered districts round Avening and the Swells. It also shows the almost complete absence of stone circles on the Cotswolds. The facts suggest that stone circles may not belong to the same culture as the long barrows. Indeed there is evidence that most of the English stone circles belong to the Bronze Age, and in this connexion it is interesting to note that Bronze Age remains generally are very scarce on the Cotswolds.

The map of Neolithic Wessex brings out the fact that nearly all the long barrows in that area are on the chalk downs (hence the importance of the geological map to the archaeologist). Long barrows are thickly grouped on the downs west of Weymouth and Dorchester, the downs between Blandford and Salisbury, the plains of Stonehenge, and the Marlborough Downs. Elsewhere they are somewhat sparsely distributed. The map also emphasizes the almost total absence of Neolithic remains in the New Forest and other heathy areas, and here again it illustrates the importance of the geological factor. Why was the New Forest not inhabited to any extent, if at all, in the Neolithic period? Doubtless it was partly on account of the scarcity of native flint and other stone suitable for making implements. By the Middle Bronze Age flint was not so necessary for existence, and so the New Forest became peopled by a race or races who built the large round barrows which are to be seen in considerable numbers on the heaths near Beaulieu. Some of these barrows belong to the transition between the Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age.

The present writer has spent a good deal of time in mapping the distribution of barrows of bell and disc types. It is already quite clear that both types are thickly clustered over greater Wessex and are rather scarce elsewhere. They evidently form part of a wonderful Bronze Age civilization which was concentrated in greater Wessex, especially near Stonehenge and Avebury.

A study of the distribution of Roman barrows in England shows that they are concentrated in East Anglia. Most of the Saxon grave-mounds are (or were) in Kent, but many have been destroyed.

Thus it is evident that by preparing maps of the distribution of barrows of different types and periods, a great deal of light can be thrown on the distribution of the people who made them. When the distributions of barrows of different kinds coincide (as with those of bell and disc types) the two types may well be the work of one people, especially if that inference is supported by evidence from excavations. But many sites have been occupied through almost all periods—another fact revealed by the study of distributions.

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CHAPTER VI

PRACTICAL HINTS ON FIELDWORK, SURVEY, AERIAL OBSERVATION, AND PHOTOGRAPHY

It was always a source of deep regret to me to observe the hasty step with which archaeological tourists passed over the country, as though their great object was to see as many monuments as possible in one day, and not to study and learn. To this reprehensible precipitancy may be attributed the sadly defective knowledge which is conspicuous in many professing antiquaries. . . .

W. C. Lukis, *The Chambered Barrows of South Brittany*

IN the foregoing chapters the reader has been introduced to the barrows of the different types and periods, the study of burial customs, the folk-lore of ancient sites, the local names of barrows, and the fascination of maps both general and archaeological.

The reader may now desire to do some exploring in the country, and this chapter is intended to be of help in indicating where to look and what to look for in the field.

OUTFIT

In the first place the prospective barrow-hunter should make up his mind to go 'hiking'. Incidentally, barrow-hunting is strongly recommended as an out-door hobby for hikers, and the writer knows several who have already taken it up. The walker should set out armed with a reel-tape, preferably 66 or 100 feet long, with which he will be able to measure the earthworks he finds. He should also carry a folding yard-rule, which is convenient for estimating the height of barrows. If careful surveys are contemplated a compass and some wooden pegs will also be necessary. Garden-pegs do excellently.

The Popular Edition of the 1-inch Ordnance Survey map covering the region visited is most important, and if serious

LONG BARROW

COUNTY : Sussex.

SITUATION : On Front Hill, north-
west of Alfriston.

{	6-inch O.S. Map 65 SW.
	1-inch O.S. Popular Edn. Sheet No. 134, F.9.

SUBSOIL : Chalk.

PARISH : Alfriston.

TYPE : Earthen, with ditches along sides but not round the ends.

DIMENSIONS—Length : 55 yards.

Breadth : 22 yards at widest part.

Height : 8 feet at highest part.

Width and Depth of Ditch : 5 yards wide and 1½ feet deep.

{	Note whether by
	puceing or by reel-tape.

ORIENTATION : NE., by SW., with larger end at NE.

LOCAL NAME : The Long Burgh.

OTHER DETAILS—Literature : *Sussex Archaeological Collections*,
vol. 75, p. 220.*A Form for Recording Details of a Long Barrow*

ROUND BARROW

COUNTY : Wiltshire.

SITUATION : On Overton Hill.
Covered with trees.

{	6-inch O.S. Map 28 SW.
	1-inch O.S. Popular Edn. Sheet No. 112, D.6.

SUBSOIL : Chalk.

PARISH : Avebury.

TYPE : Bell, with perhaps a very vague suggestion of outer bank.

DIMENSIONS—Diam. of Mound : 84 feet.

Height of Mound : 12 feet.

Width of Berm : 27 feet. On same level as surrounding ground.

Width of Ditch : 15 feet.

Depth of Ditch : 2 feet.

LOCAL NAME : Apparently none.

OTHER DETAILS.—Literature : *Proc. Prehistoric Soc. E. Anglia*,
vol. 7, part 2, p. 217 and fig. 5. A very impressive mound, beautifully formed. One of the largest and finest barrows in Wiltshire.*A Form for Recording Details of a Round Barrow*

work is being done, in the way of searching for unrecorded sites which are not marked on the maps, it is strongly advisable to have the 6-inch O.S. map of the area being worked. Each 6-inch quarter-sheet covers 6 square miles and it takes a long time to work over the area covered by a quarter-sheet thoroughly. A camera should also be carried. A convenient size is the No. 2 Brownie. It is best to have a folding camera of this size with a good lens and a cable-release. Between autumn and spring a folding camera-tripod should also be carried. It is hardly necessary to add that a notebook and pencil or fountain pen are essential for noting and describing the sites visited. These notes should be taken on the spot, as fully as possible.

A very convenient method of collecting details of the sites visited is to carry a number of blank forms resembling the filled-in specimens shown in Forms A and B.¹ The advantage of these forms is that, by providing headings, they make it impossible for any important points to be forgotten. Otherwise the enthusiast may forget to note, say, whether the barrow had a surrounding ditch, or how high the mound was.

WHEN AND WHERE TO SEARCH

The best times of the year to see ancient earthworks are in the winter and early spring when the grass is short. During the summer months the long grass, bracken, and other vegetation tend to obscure some of the smaller sites. But most of the larger barrows are suitable for seeing at any time of the year. It is by no means waste of time to see the same sites under different soil conditions and at different seasons. A circle of wild flowers surrounding barrows in the Lake group near Stonehenge betrayed the fact that the barrows were surrounded by a ditch (in which the weeds were growing), but as the barrows had been ploughed this ditch was not otherwise visible. The barrows were of the bell form, as the surrounding circles of flowers were placed several feet away from the mound. Frequently the vegetation in the surround-

¹ It is strongly advisable to record the *exact* position of each barrow by giving latitude and longitude, or by using the grid printed on the new Fifth Edition 1-inch O.S. maps.

ing ditch is different from that on the mound, and at certain seasons the resulting colour-contrast renders the barrow especially suitable for photography. Earthworks are seen to best advantage on clear days shortly after sunrise and before sunset when the features of the mound and ditch are thrown into relief by the shadows cast by the sun.

Barrows are easy to find on the open chalk downs of Salisbury Plain, Dorset, Berkshire, and Sussex, and in these regions it is often sufficient to carry a 1-inch O.S. map; but in wooded regions a 6-inch O.S. map is strongly recommended, as it gives a more exact location of the barrow. In nearly all districts it is well to keep on high ground, because nearly all the tumuli are placed on the tops or higher slopes of hills. Frequently a previously unknown barrow may be found by a walker who is going along a hilltop on his way to a known site.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

The average barrow is a grass-covered mound, between 10 and 30 yards in diameter and between 1 and 10 feet high. Most of the mounds, especially the round ones, have a little dimple or crater on the top. This generally indicates that the mound has been opened from the top—a very common method of digging into barrows during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. This crater is most frequently circular, but sometimes it is shaped like a cross. This almost invariably indicates that, at some time or other, the mound has been used as a windmill-stand. The central cross is simply the impression of the cross-beams at the base of the windmill. Occasionally, however, this cruciform hollow indicates that the barrow has been opened by driving trenches at right angles into the mound.

A very large circular and flat central depression in a barrow may indicate that the barrow has served as a stand for a windmill with no cross-beams at the base, or it may denote that the mound has had the top removed or truncated. This happens sometimes with cairns. It is often very difficult to distinguish these flat depressions from the flat tops that characterize platform-barrows. The best time to inspect such sites is in the winter when the grass is short. Truncated tops tend to have a broken-up appearance, whereas the tops of platform-

barrows tend to be smoother. Truncated barrows usually have a slight rim round the depressed area.

Most barrows were originally surrounded by a ditch, but this ditch has frequently become obliterated by the plough. When the ditch is still visible it is generally softer to the tread, and is covered by greener grass than the surrounding ground. Sometimes even when no true ditch is otherwise visible it may be detected by the greenness of the grass where the ditch should be, and it is often possible for an experienced field-worker to detect the presence of a ditch by the feel of the ground beneath the feet. Occasionally a barrow ditch is marked by nothing more than a circle of weeds or wild flowers surrounding the mound. In elaborate surveys the presence or absence of ditches is sometimes determined by means of knocking the ground with a heavy weight known as a rammer, but this method is not always practicable for a field-worker engaged on a broad survey of a large number of barrows, unless he travels about in a car. Rammers are much too heavy for the hiker to carry. A rammer should, however, be used when making a careful survey of a barrow, the ditch of which has become obliterated.

Long barrows on the chalk downs normally have ditches along the flank-sides but not round the ends, but there are exceptions. Long barrows in the Cotswolds and other stony areas seldom if ever have visible ditches, and it is possible that they never existed. Most round barrows of all types and periods (except perhaps those of the earliest Bronze Age) originally had surrounding ditches. Some bell- and disc-barrows appear to have had two concentric ditches—one between the mound and the platform or berm, the other outside the berm. It is important to note whether the ditch of a round barrow is continuous or interrupted. Sometimes the ditch is interrupted at one or more points by a kind of causeway. This interruption may date from when the barrow was made, but it is frequently due to subsequent tampering with the mound, and particularly to digging into the mound and throwing the earth into the ditch—an early but clumsy method of excavating.

Disc- and bell-barrows have a shelf or berm between the

mound and the ditch. The berms of bell-barrows tend to be narrower than those of disc-barrows. The berms of disc-barrows are nearly always flat. Those of bell-barrows may be flat or else they may slope from the mound towards the ditch. Sloping berms are of course due to the overspreading of the material of the mound.

It is important to note whether a ditched barrow has a slight bank outside the ditch. This feature is present rarely in bowls, sometimes in bells, and always in disc-barrows. Very occasionally there is an *inner* bank between the ditch and the mound. This inner bank may be due to an afforestation-bank having been erected round the mound within the last 150 years, or alternatively it may be original. Some alleged Roman barrows have this feature, notably a supposed Roman barrow near Badbury Rings, Dorset.

Examples on heathlands and in stony country such as the Yorkshire Moors and the Cotswolds seldom have visible ditches. Barrows in stony regions frequently contain stonework. Some of the round barrows on Dartmoor and the Cleveland Hills and elsewhere are set round with a circle of stones at their base. In the Cotswolds and north Wiltshire the long barrows normally contain chambers of stone, described in Chapter I of this work. Most of the Dartmoor round barrows contain stone cists or kistvaens, many of which are exposed.

Enough has been written to show that there are many features to look for in visiting tumuli. The notes given above are far from being exhaustive: they indicate only the chief points to observe. Other relevant hints will be dropped as occasion arises in the chapters in Part II of this work.

It goes without saying that an archaeological Rambler should make every effort to find out the folk-lore of the ancient sites he visits. A fruitless day of visiting barrow-sites which have been destroyed or are under plough may frequently be compensated for by one or two interesting legends about ancient monuments heard at the village inn, or from the lips of a local farmer or ploughboy. I well remember such a fruitless day on the Yorkshire Wolds, examining levelled barrow-sites, being amply rewarded subsequently by the hearing of a particularly interesting custom

practised on Shrove Tuesday at a barrow in the vicinity of Wold Newton—information supplied by the keeper of the village general stores. Even the hearing of an unrecorded local name of a tumulus is well worth a day's ramble.

HOW TO DISTINGUISH BARROWS FROM OTHER MOUNDS

The following are among the more important sites that can be confused with barrows:—

(1) *Afforestation Circles*.—These consist of a circular, or sometimes oval or rectangular ring of earth *outside* of which is a ditch. Note that the ditch is always outside the bank—the reverse of the arrangement in disc-barrows. The ditch and bank tend to be steeper and narrower than those of a disc-barrow or other prehistoric earthwork. About 1800 it was customary for newly-planted groups of trees to be enclosed by these afforestation banks, on top of which a fence was placed. For that reason such entrenchments or ring-works nearly always enclose trees—frequently pines or firs.

(2) *Castle-Mounds*.—These tend to be much larger, steeper and more conical than barrows, and normally have a flat top. They are mostly Norman.

(3) *Circuses and Moots*.—Some of these may have been converted from pre-existing barrows. They differ from normal barrows in having a much larger hollow in the centre, big enough for a very small amphitheatre or arena, surrounding which is an earthen rim. *Circuses* generally have Roman or Celtic roads leading into them, and are often oval. *Moots* are generally circular.

(4) *Hut Circles*.—Very few hut circles are known on the chalk downs, but they are very common on Dartmoor. They consist of a circular ring of stones between 8 and 12 yards in diameter. Whereas barrows are nearly always on hilltops, the hut circles on Dartmoor are generally placed on hillslopes or in valleys.

(5) *Boundary-Mounds*.—It has sometimes been known for a circular mound to be thrown up in order to mark a boundary between two parishes or two estates. Such mounds tend to be smaller, steeper and less circular than barrows, but it is not always possible to distinguish between them. Sussex

and several other counties offer some examples of barrows used to serve as boundary-mounds.

(6) *Windmill-Steads*.—These commonly resemble a very mutilated round barrow with a very large central cavity. Whereas barrow-cavities tend to be circular, windmill-stead cavities are frequently cruciform. Barrows have often served as windmill-steads.

(7) *Fungus-rings*.—These are the so-called 'fairy-rings'. They are caused by the growing of a fungus in a circular or oval pattern on the grass. They consist of a ring of different-coloured grass from that growing in the immediate vicinity. Two good examples may be seen in the air-photograph of part of the Normanton group (plate XI).

SURVEYING

The present writer is by no means a practised surveyor. His methods are inclined to be rather rough-and-ready when compared with the exceedingly accurate methods followed by Alexander Keiller and others at the present time in surveying earthworks.

I have found the following methods very useful for rough surveys of barrows, undertaken for lists of the barrows in each county. When measurements of perhaps a thousand barrows have to be obtained, it is clear that meticulously accurate surveys would take too long. Moreover, I think the methods I use bring out the most important details.

If a barrow is not higher than 3 or 4 feet, and has a diameter of 15 yards or more, a rough estimate of the diameter of the mound may be obtained by pacing across it. This may be checked, if time permits, by walking round the circumference and dividing it by $\frac{22}{7}$, which gives the diameter. Measurements thus determined should of course in a published report be given in paces and not yards. They are suitable only for rough surveys of a very large number of mounds, when time does not permit more accurate work. At the same time such surveys, by an experienced barrow-pacer, can be extraordinarily accurate. If I may say so, I have myself paced across many barrows and checked my measurement by a reel tape, and found it correct to a foot or two for a mound between 30 and 40 yards in diameter. Care must be taken

to note whether the diameter taken is of the mound or of both mound and ditch.

In pacing over barrows the height of which is 4 feet or more, it is well to make allowance for this height by deducting a few feet from the measurement obtained by pacing.

Heights may generally be estimated with fair accuracy by judgement; but care must be taken not to *over-estimate* the height, as was so frequently done in the past.

If time permits, barrows should always be measured by a reel-tape; a length of 66 feet or 100 feet is most suitable. Reel-tapes may be obtained from most hardware stores, prices from 5s. upwards. Round barrows should be measured in two directions, one at right-angles to the other. Such measurements show whether the barrow is exactly circular. Elliptical and oval barrows are found occasionally.

Surveys more accurate still may be obtained by taking a point in or near the centre of the barrow, and placing wooden pegs at different places along the circumference of the mound, ditch and berm, and outer bank if any. Distances are then measured between the centre and the circumference of mound, ditch and berm and outer bank if present. This method requires two people, but is very satisfactory. It takes quite an hour to do a careful survey by this method if the barrow is large (say over 25 yards in diameter). It is best to take at least eight or ten points along the circumference of the outermost part of the barrow and to get measurements from the centre to these. Large bell- and disc-barrows need 20 or more such points in the circumference. Heights may be measured by holding a rod of known length vertically in front of the mound and getting a friend to judge the height of the mound from its proportion to the height of the rod. Another method is to extend the reel-tape from the top of the mound to the circumference, and draw it parallel with the natural ground-level. A measurement is then made, at the circumference, between the tape and the ground, this being the same as the height of the barrow. All these and similar methods are very simple and would occur to any one with common sense.

Groups of barrows may be planned by placing a peg roughly in the centre of each barrow and measuring the distances

between the pegs. A little rough surveying of each barrow enables the barrows to be sketched in after their relative positions have been obtained. This method is applicable to clusters of small grave-mounds such as were erected in Early Iron Age and Saxon times; but the method could hardly be applied to groups of large Bronze Age barrows on account of their great size and the comparatively long distances between them. Bronze Age barrow-groups have mostly been planned accurately on the 6-inch and 25-inch O.S. maps, but this is not so with the Early Iron Age and Saxon grave-mound clusters, the mounds being too small to show separately on the maps.

Many barrows on Dartmoor, Bodmin Moor, and elsewhere, contain visible kistvaens or stone cists and are surrounded by a 'retaining wall' of large stones. These stones should of course be shown on plans, and the cists should always be measured. The length, thickness and depth (so far as can be judged) of each stone forming a cist should be measured by tape. An ordinary 5-feet tape-measure as used by many housewives will do for this, as the cists are seldom more than 4 or 5 feet long. Long barrows in the Cotswolds, the north Wiltshire downs and elsewhere usually contain stone structures such as passages and chambers. These should always be measured, the dimensions of each stone being obtained where possible. The accurate planning of chambered long barrows is a very big task, although a rough plan showing the main features can be done in about half an hour.

The orientation or compass-bearing of all long barrows and exposed stone cists should be determined. This can be done roughly with the aid of a large-scale map and a cheap compass; but for more accurate purposes it is usual to allow for magnetic variation, the exact figure of which for a given place at a given time may be obtained from the Ordnance Survey Office at Southampton.

It is well to consider a few of the facts which are likely to be revealed by surveys of the kind described. In the first place the influence of weathering in altering the shape of a mound is brought out. A barrow on a hillslope tends to have the surrounding ditch overspread on the lower slope by the mound. Many barrows on hillslopes are oval, the shape being due to the earth gradually working its way

downwards. Surveys of apparently circular disc-barrows with two central mounds sometimes reveal the fact that the disc-barrows are oval, and were obviously originally constructed as twin burial-places. Yet other twin disc-barrows are circular, with one mound in the centre and the other one placed elsewhere on the central platform.

A study of the orientation of long barrows shows a tendency for them to be placed with their long axis east and west, the higher and broader end being at the east. Most of the Dartmoor stone cists are placed with their long axis north-west to south-east.

AERIAL OBSERVATION

Aerial observation in archaeology can be useful in two ways—by revealing a fresh view of known sites, and by discovering sites previously unknown.

An aerial view of a known site is frequently useful in confirming or modifying conclusions arrived at from a ground inspection of the site. For example, in parts of southern England, notably Berkshire, some barrows had afforestation circles placed round them about 1800 or 1820. These circles consist of a narrow bank placed on the inner lip of a ditch. Sometimes the original barrow-ditch was partly re-dug and the earth obtained placed along the edge of the mound. This has occurred with one or two barrows in the Lambourn group (see plate XVII). The very narrow circles round two barrows in the centre of this photo are the remains of these afforestation circles. On the ground they are visible to a very experienced field-worker, but would be missed by nearly every one. This is where an air-photo comes in extremely useful, in confirming suspicions formed by a ground-inspection of a site.

The chief use of air observation is however in revealing previously unknown sites. Some earthworks are perfectly obvious to anyone who happens to walk near them, but if an archaeologist never walks that way they continue to be archaeologically unknown, if they are not marked on any maps, as frequently happens. Such sites are easily revealed by air observation and photography.

Most of the unknown sites discovered by this method have however been situated in ploughed fields. It happens that

when certain crops are growing in ploughed fields, in which barrows or other earthworks are situated, the crops grow more thickly in the ditch of the earthworks, where the soil is richer. This has the effect of making the earthworks very clearly visible from the air, even when little or nothing can be seen from the ground. According to Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, one of the pioneers of air-photography of ancient sites,

so far as we know at present, corn (especially wheat and oats), weeds, horse-beans, and parched grass are all good agents. In conjunction with the sun, they act upon the soil in the same kind of way as a chemical developer acts upon an exposed photographic plate. In both cases there is a latent image; in the one it is a picture, in the other a plan.¹

It remains to add that at the Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, is a collection of over 10,000 air-photographs, many of which contain ancient sites. A large portion of the collection is devoted to Hampshire and Wiltshire. The vertical air-photos reproduced in this book are from this collection; the oblique ones were taken by a private pilot, Major G. W. G. Allen, M.C., to whom I am greatly indebted.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Barrows are notoriously difficult to photograph on account of the lack of colour-contrast between the barrow and the surrounding ground. If the monument to be photographed is a fairly high barrow of bowl or bell shape, a good photo can generally be taken by getting the barrow on the skyline, but it is not always possible to do this. The best times of the day for barrow-photography are just after sunrise and just before sunset; the best times of the year are between spring and autumn.

By taking barrows at sunrise or sunset, light and shade are distributed to best advantage. This fact applies specially to disc- and ring-barrows, which are almost impossible to take successfully at mid-day on account of lack of shadow, except on very clear days in the winter, when the sun casts more shadow. Ground-photos of disc-barrows are seldom successful: air-photos are seldom failures. Most disc-bar-

¹ *Air-Photography for Archaeologists*, 1929, p. 5.



AIR-**PHOTOGRAPH OF PLOUGHED BARROWS NEAR HEATH FARM,
ROYSTON, HERTS**



PLOUGHED BARROWS NEAR PIMPEHNE, DORSET
Although the barrows in the lower photograph are clearly seen from the air
they are not visible on the ground



rows photograph extremely well from the air, especially when the sun is low.

When photographing bowl-and-bell-barrows, it is convenient to stand between 20 and 40 yards away from the object, and focus accordingly. An exposure of $\frac{1}{125}$ th of a second with full aperture is about right for an average day between May and September, between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., with an ordinary, verichrome, or panchromatic film. The extra cost of panchromatic films for photographing all barrows under all conditions is generally a good investment, the photographs being nearly always better than they would otherwise be.

Long barrows, when placed roughly east and west with the higher end at the east, should whenever possible be photographed from the south: the view obtained will then show the higher end of the barrow at the east.

Megalithic structures, including burial-chambers, stone cists, and stone circles, generally photograph very successfully. It is generally convenient to take stone cists (as on Dartmoor) at a distance of not more than a few feet. Care must be taken, therefore, not to forget to alter the focus (a mistake that is very easy to make and which the writer occasionally commits). Mr. R. Hansford Worth's photographs (and still more his drawings) of Dartmoor stone cists published in the *Proceedings of the Devon Association*, are works of art.

Air-photography of archaeological sites can be done only by the privileged few, and they will probably need no instruction from the author. It is sufficient to say that panchromatic film is essential, and the camera used must be capable of taking exposures of $\frac{1}{100}$ th or $\frac{1}{125}$ th of a second. A height of between 400 and 800 feet is probably most suitable for barrows. The 'pistol' variety of camera, specially designed for air-photography, is very suitable for archaeological work.

Oblique photographs are beautiful and useful in revealing sites both known and unknown. But for scientific work vertical photos are preferred, from which it is possible to plot newly discovered sites accurately on the map. A high-winged monoplane is the most suitable machine for air-photography.

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CHAPTER VII

THOUGHTS ON EXCAVATION

. . . But of these and the like hills there can be no clear and assured decision without an ocular exploration, and subterraneous inquiry by cutting through one of them either directly or cross-wise,—SIR THOMAS BROWNE, on *Artificial Hills, Mounts or Burrows*, before 1682.

“Uprouse ye then, my barrow-digging men,
It is our opening day.”
Barrow-Digging, by a Barrow-Knight, 1845

This chapter may well begin with a brief review of the methods of the early excavators.

Among the first to excavate barrows with an antiquarian object was Dr. Stukeley. Stukeley was no fool. One of his objects in opening barrows was to find out ‘how the body was posited’. Sometimes he noted the composition and stratification of the mound. A typical example of his work is shown in his account of the opening of a twin-barrow south of the Cursus, near Stonehenge:—

About three feet below the surface was a layer of flints, lining the convexity of the barrow. . . . This being about one foot thick, rested on a layer of soft mould another foot, in which was enclosed an urn full of bones. . . . The bones had been burned. . . . This person was a heroin, for we found the head of her javelin in brass.

As a pioneer, Stukeley was not aware that the primary burial in barrows is nearly always on or below the original ground-level and near the centre of the mound. Consequently he sometimes thought he had found the original burial when he had only found a secondary burial of much later date.

Writing in 1810, Colt Hoare said: ‘I shall have frequent occasion to observe in how imperfect a manner the operations

of Dr. Stukeley were conducted.' Hoare, having learned from the mistakes of Stukeley, established the position of the primary burials on or below the original ground level.

An incident that occurred during Faussett's excavations at a sandpit at Gilton, Kent, in 1759, illustrates the clumsiness of the early methods :

. . . At the next stroke or two, part of a skull and a few vertebrae of the neck (all much decayed) were indiscriminately with the soil cast down into the pit, without the least care or search after anything. That concern, they said, they left to me and my servant at the bottom, who were nearly blinded with the sand falling on us, and in no small danger of being knocked on the head, if not absolutely buried, by the too zealous impetuosity of my honest labourers.

Further light is thrown on the clumsy methods of the early excavators by the following quotation from volume 16 (page 354) of the *Archaeologia* :

having ordered a hole to be opened in the middle (of the barrow), . . . we came to the sand, the natural soil of the whole heath . . . without finding anything ; but on shoving down the sides to fill up a cavity, . . . a curious Urn was discovered, which was cut through the middle by the spade.

In fact the reports of the early excavators are too frequently accounts of the sending of a gang of workmen to dig into a few barrows for the ' amusement ' of curious antiquaries who did not consider it necessary for the work to be supervised. They seldom thought of putting in an appearance until the burials were reached, and the grave-goods broken. They generally arrived just in time to pronounce the metal objects (wrongly) as brazen spear-heads, and the urns (also wrongly) as of sun-baked clay.

The methods of Faussett, Douglas, Hoare, and others were generally successful in finding the primary burials, and the excavators were sometimes careful to note the method of interment and the grave-goods associated ; but they frequently neglected to note the construction and stratification of the mound.

Chambered barrows, or those containing stone vaults or chambers and passages, require special treatment in excavating. That they have not always received this care is illus-

trated by the opening of a chambered round harrow near St. Guenolé, Finisterre, in 1862,

by persons altogether unacquainted with these structures. . . . The explorers commenced their blundering operations by digging down from the apex of the mound, by which they broke through and utterly destroyed the arched roofs. When I saw it, in 1864, it was a complete ruin.¹

To multiply these examples of careless excavation would be as superfluous as it is tedious. Let us conclude by recalling the opening of a certain barrow on the Yorkshire Wolds. The explorers found an urn, which they broke into pieces, each explorer being given a fragment as a memento of the excavation.

In the second half of last century, the foundations of a new age of excavation were laid very soundly by Pitt-Rivers in general archaeology, and by Greenwell and Mortimer in barrow-digging. It was Pitt-Rivers who first made contoured plans of ancient British earthworks. His example has been followed by his assistant Mr. H. St. George Gray, and also by Mr. Alexander Keiller. Pitt-Rivers was also among the first to make models of the sites he excavated. At the Pitt-Rivers Museum, Farnham, Dorset, may be seen his models of his excavations in War Barrow and other barrows on Cranborne Chase, and a few barrows elsewhere (e.g., the Black Burgh, north-west of Brighton, Sussex). These models show the areas excavated, and the exact positions of the different objects found.

Canon William Greenwell and J. R. Mortimer improved the methods of barrow excavation largely by the minute detail of their descriptions, and their practice of illustrating the most important objects found in each mound. Greenwell's work, *British Barrowes*, contains a valuable analysis of the human skulls by Prof. Rolleston. Mortimer's book, *Forty Years' Researches*, contains a large number of plans of barrows opened, as well as sketch maps of the various barrow groups.

Since Pitt-Rivers's time the chief advance in excavation has perhaps been in the better facilities for obtaining experts'

¹ W. C. Lukis, in *Journal of Brit. Archaeol. Assocn.*, vol. 22, p. 260.

reports on the finds, and this advance, of course, relates not so much to the actual excavation as to the work following the excavation. Human and animal remains, molluses (snail-shells, etc), flint implements, bronze and iron implements, charcoal, pottery, and several other things are each submitted to a separate expert for his opinion. Thus is archaeology the meeting-point of many sciences.

THE METHODS OF OPENING BARROWS

The present writer has done very little excavation, and is not well acquainted with the best methods in use to-day. Still, there are a number of points that have occurred to him, through reading of the mistakes of others, and through reading extensively the reports of excavations undertaken by others. He therefore ventures to offer the following remarks on a subject of which he is fully aware of the shortcomings of his own knowledge.

In the first place, the prospective excavator should have read up references to his site in all likely books and articles, paying particular attention to archaeological societies' proceedings, county and local histories, and other topographical works.

In the next place it is obvious that no excavation should be attempted until an extremely careful plan of the site has been made. It is also wise to make a model of the barrow to be dug. Neither the plan nor the model should be on too small a scale. A scale of an inch or more to the yard should be quite convenient. Plenty of time and thought should be spent on this preliminary survey, noting not only the broad features of the barrow, but also any minor points that occur, such as whether the ditch (if visible) is continuous or interrupted; whether the scars of former excavations are visible on the mound; whether there is any suggestion of a bank outside the ditch.

The actual method of excavation naturally depends on the scale on which it is to be done—whether the whole barrow is to be examined, or only a trench or two dug through it. This in its turn depends on the object of the excavation. The object is probably either to find the primary burial, or else to find out structural features. If the former, the barrow

must *all* be thoroughly excavated. If the latter, a trench or two may reveal the information required.

Let us deal with the former. For this purpose the whole barrow should be excavated thoroughly, and the utmost attention must be paid to every conceivable aspect of the dig. Every particle of information that the excavation is capable of yielding, in whatever sphere of archaeological knowledge, must be carefully noted. The exact position, both horizontally and (more important still) vertically, of every object found must be recorded. In order to do this, it is well to dig a small portion of the barrow at a time, marking the area excavated on the plan.

If any fragile articles, such as pottery, are found, they should be photographed immediately they are exposed. In Warne's *Celtic Tumuli of Dorset* we read of a very perfect urn the explorers found in a barrow, and just as they had exchanged congratulations on the perfection of the urn, and were planning how best to remove it, the urn crumbled to dust from the sudden exposure to the air, without any photograph, drawing or other record having been made. This shows the vital necessity of having a camera on the spot and ready for instant use.

An important part of the barrow is the ditch surrounding the mound. Pitt-Rivers demonstrated, by his experiments at Wor Barrow, that during the few years following the original digging of the ditch round a barrow, a considerable layer of quick-silting forms, and objects found in this quick-silting are probably contemporary with the barrow. They cannot be more than a few years later than the barrow if the quick-silting is undisturbed, unless the objects are of metal. Metal objects have a habit of working their way down, by their weight, into horizons below their true level. This fact should be carefully noted, for it explains why coins and other heavy objects have sometimes been found with the primary burial in a barrow of much earlier date than the coins and other objects in question.

The earth from the ditch round a barrow should be peeled off layer by layer. If there are no suitable natural strata to remove, the earth should be removed in layers of about 6 inches thick. The objects found in each layer should be

kept separate, and the exact position of each object in its own layer should be determined as carefully as possible. Great attention should be paid to the lowest layer, which is probably visible as a stratum. This lowest layer is composed of what is called quick-silting. Objects found in the quick-silting must have been placed there within a few years of the digging of the ditch, with the possible exception of certain metal objects for the reason already given. It is clear therefore that if any dateable objects are found in the quick-silting, they will date the barrow; hence the great importance of a careful excavation of the ditch.

When excavating the mound, a small section of which should be done at a time, the same method of peeling off the earth layer by layer should be followed. Great attention should be paid to noting the layers of soil composing the mound. The information thus obtained will probably be of great value when determining the method of construction of the barrow. If any large stones, whether sarsens, flints or other materials, are met with, the work should proceed extremely carefully, for the stones may cover an urn, or they may be part of a cist containing a burial. This remark applies just as much when digging in the body of the mound as when near the centre; for secondary burials may occur anywhere in the mound, though they are normally uncommon on the north side.

As each section of mound or ditch is exposed, horizontal and vertical plans of it should be made, on which the positions of the finds must be marked as accurately as possible.

Throughout his work the excavator's slogan should be 'the slower the work proceeds, the more accurately it is being done'. Like most slogans this is of course only a half-truth; but the great thing to avoid is working too hastily. This point is made clear by our considering three excavators at work. Two of them are removing earth with some speed; the third is much slower, but much more careful, and is consequently really doing work of greater value. But too frequently he gets an inferiority-complex because he is making slower progress, and in order to check this he starts increasing speed at the sacrifice of care. The excavator will therefore do well if he harbours the conviction that the most

accurate worker is frequently the slowest ; the most slapdash generally the quickest. Extreme care comes first and last.

All the finds (modern intrusions such as beer-bottles excepted) should be labelled with the greatest care and placed in suitable boxes. Flints should be carefully scrubbed in warm water. Pottery should be cleaned and treated much more gently in this process than the flints. Pottery (unless hard and wheel-made) should never be scrubbed. It is a good plan to clean the dirt off coarse gritty pottery with a pin or needle ; the process can be completed by the gentle application of a wet sponge.

In the event of the finding of human or animal remains, the earth should be very carefully removed from the bones by a penknife. On no account must the position of the bones be disturbed until they have been uncovered and photographed, preferably from at least two or three points of view.

Any charcoal or molluscs found should be retained and sent to specialists for their examination. The same applies to any earth composing the barrow, if the earth appears to have been brought from a distance, by reason of its appearing different from the native soil of the district ; a sample of such earth should be retained and sent to a geological expert for his examination. The flint implements, pottery, metal and other objects must likewise be submitted to specialists for their reports.

Every effort should be made to ascertain, from local residents, particularly from old and native inhabitants, whether the barrow has a local name, and if so what the name denotes, and whether there are any traditions attached to the mound. Any local name discovered should be submitted to a Place-Name expert for his opinion as to its origin and meaning.

Lastly, no one, however keen and enthusiastic and conscientious, should ever attempt a barrow-dig without the aid of an experienced excavator : otherwise he may unintentionally do more harm than good, even if he carries out all the advice given in this chapter, which is by one who is a novice at excavation.

The writer knows of several barrow-excavations undertaken during the last few years which have not been done as carefully as they should have been. It is one of the objects

of this chapter to try and prevent the inexperienced though well-meaning enthusiast from undertaking these unfortunate excavations. The writer does not at present consider himself completely competent to conduct a barrow-excavation; he hopes that all those who have still less knowledge of the subject will leave the work for those better qualified.

WHICH BARROWS SHOULD BE OPENED ?

It is the author's opinion that excavation should be done as seldom as possible. He feels sure that too much is being done to-day. It should be done very sparingly. Most archaeologists would be very grateful to Stukeley, Hoare, Bateman, Warne, and others if they had opened fewer barrows with more accuracy. This is not to speak disparagingly of their work: they laid the foundations of the subject, and if we see farther than them it is because we stand on their shoulders. But it is *our* duty to be very sparing in our excavations, in order to leave as many sites as possible for the better-qualified archaeologist of the future.

It would surely be a good thing if no archaeologist attempted for the next century to open any barrows unless they are in danger or in process of destruction. Examples that are daily being levelled by the plough, examples on which building-sites are encroaching, or barrows which are for any other reason retarding the march of progress—these have the first claim on the excavator's energy; and until all these have been excavated with the utmost care, no work should be attempted on any barrows that are perfectly safe from destruction.

Truly, 'time, which antiquates antiquities, and hath an art to make dust of all things, hath yet spared these minor monuments'; but 'would it could be said that man had been equally considerate'!

Lastly, it is perhaps well to add a reference to the sentiment that is sometimes aired with regard to disturbing the graves of the dead. No human being whose intelligence approaches even half-wittedness could possibly object to his bones being dug up, some two thousand years after his death, for the benefit of scientific research. It is surely more dignified to have one's bones in a museum showcase than to have worms

and other creeping things crawling over them in mother earth. Anyway, Rev. J. C. Atkinson said that he had seen more disturbance of the dead in the 'restoration' of one church than had probably been done by all the barrow-excavators combined. Excavators of barrows nearly always exercise all due reverence for the dead.

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS ASPECTS

IN the foregoing chapters the more important aspects of barrow-study have been summarized. It remains to consider certain other aspects, some of which are of great interest.

1. THE CONSTRUCTION OF BARROWS

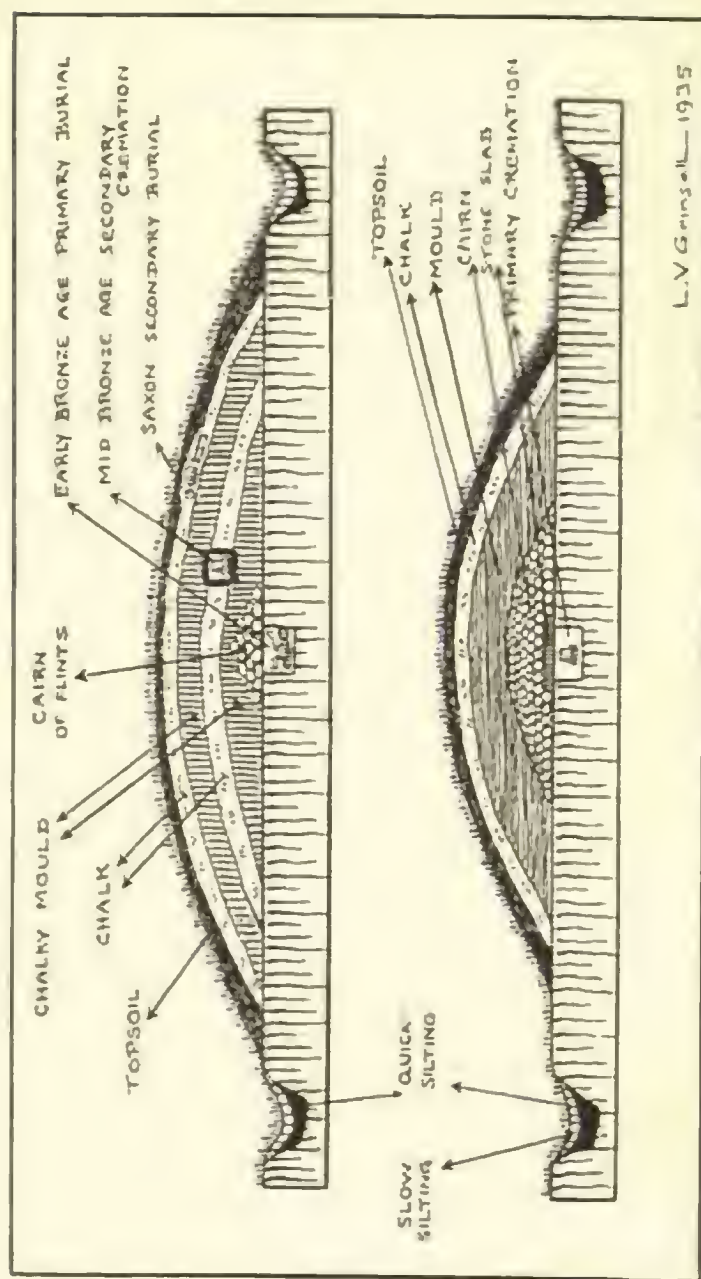
The subject of barrow-construction is a colossal one. Only a few aspects of it will be considered here.

(a) *Ditched Barrows*.—The earth or other material from the ditch around barrows was nearly always placed inside the barrow-circle to form part or all of the mound, except in a very few bowl- and bell-, and nearly all disc-barrows, when some or all of the material from the ditch was placed outside the ditch to form an outer bank. In some barrows the mound was probably composed entirely of earth from the ditch, but in a great many of them the material from the ditch was insufficient to form the mound. Some of the earth was therefore obtained from elsewhere.

(b) *Cairns in Barrows*.—In many districts one frequently finds the primary burial in a barrow covered by a cairn, composed of flints or other material. The purpose of this cairn may well have been to keep the spirit of deceased well in check, and by placing plenty of heavy stones on him to prevent him from returning to molest the living.

(c) *Turves in Barrows*.—Some of the examples in Dartmoor, Yorkshire, and elsewhere, were composed largely of sods of turf, cut from the neighbouring moors or downs.

(d) *Basketfuls of Earth*.—A fairly common custom was for the relations and friends of deceased each to carry a basket or other receptacle full of earth and place it in layers on the mound. This practice has been noted from Cleatham in Lincolnshire, various places on the Yorkshire Wolds, Michel-



3.—THE CONSTRUCTION OF BARROWS

dever in Hampshire, and elsewhere. There are various references in Classical archaeology to the custom of soldiers bringing each a helmetful of earth to place on the barrow of a dead hero. Also there is a curious tradition relating to the formation of a natural hill which has the appearance of a barrow, near Dunfermline. 'According to an old story, this drift mound owes its origin to some unfortunate monks who, by way of penance, carried the sand in baskets from the seashore at Inverkeithing', thus forming the mound. Here we may possibly have a method of barrow-construction betrayed by a tradition, but of course the connexion is doubtful.

(c) *The Outer Crust*.—Some of the large bell-barrows, and perhaps some of those of bowl shape as well, were composed chiefly of earth with perhaps a central cairn, and after the main body of the mound had been thus formed, the ditch was dug, and the chalk rubble obtained therefrom was then sprinkled in a layer over the surface of the mound; after this chalk layer had been exposed to weathering for a short time it would form a crust on the mound.

(f) *The Original Turf-line*.—Sometimes, as at Fernworthy on Dartmoor, the original turf covering was removed over the area to be occupied by the barrow, the latter being erected on the subsoil. Most long barrows were erected on the original turf, and when a long barrow is excavated this turf-line may be seen as a horizontal band of black earth beneath the mound. But this stratum of black earth is sometimes so thick as to suggest that it is due not only to the original turf-line but also to some other cause, such as the heaping up of additional turves.

(g) *Retaining-Circles*, or circles of stones placed around the circumference of barrows, are quite common in Cornwall, on Dartmoor, the Yorkshire Moors, and in other stony regions. If the barrow is removed, the retaining-circle of stones is sometimes left, and the uninitiated think it is a stone circle. On Dartmoor, most of these retaining-circles have a stone cist in the centre.

(h) *Pavements*.—Certain barrows on Dartmoor, on the South Downs (notably on Bow Hill near Chichester) and elsewhere have been shown by excavation to cover a pave-

ment formed of flat stones. These pavements are sometimes in the nature of an extension of the capstone covering a burial.

2. CENOTAPH-BARROWS

It was said by Sir Thomas Browne that 'the variety of Monuments hath often obscured true graves; and Cenotaphs confounded Sepulchres. For beside their reall Tombs, many have found honourable and empty Sepulchres. . . . Euripedes had his Tomb in Africa, but his sepulture in Macedonia. And Severus found his real Sepulchre in Rome, but his empty grave in Gallia'. So it is with barrows. When a prehistoric chief was killed in battle, or drowned, and his body could not be recovered, what more natural than that a cenotaph-barrow should be erected in his memory? A number of barrows in many parts of the country have been shown to have probably never contained a primary burial. Among the most recently excavated examples of cenotaph-barrows is the smaller of the two long barrows on Thickethorn Down in north-east Dorset. This barrow was investigated with extreme thoroughness by Alex. Keiller and Stuart Piggott, and there is no doubt that a primary burial could never have been placed in the barrow. The skeleton could not have decayed; for the remains of bones of oxen, probably connected with the funeral feast, were found in a perfectly good state of preservation.

An unusual kind of cenotaph-barrow was erected in A.D. 673. Ebroin, Mayor of the Palace of Tours, 'wishing to have it believed that Bishop Léodegar, the head of the Opposition, was dead, seized and confined him in a secret place, spread a report that he was drowned, and raised a tumulus over his supposed grave, so that all who had ears to hear, or eyes to see . . . believed the report to be true'.

3. BARROWS MENTIONED IN THE SAXON LAND CHARTERS

In Saxon times a large number of land charters or perambulations of the boundaries of estates were drawn up, and these land charters contain numerous references to barrows and other earthworks which were used as landmarks

in the bounds of the estates. These charters were published by J. M. Kemble between 1839 and 1848, and he wrote a most important paper on references in the charters to heathen interments and barrows¹. In more recent times Dr. G. B. Grundy has written very valuable papers on the land charters of Wiltshire, Hampshire, Berkshire, Worcestershire, Oxfordshire, Dorset, and Somerset. The following notes are largely based on the work of Kemble and Grundy.

Kemble found over 150 references to barrows in the charters, and the numerous additions to the list, as the result of Dr. Grundy's work, would bring the total up to at least 250, and probably many more.

At least 43 charters mention 'heathen burial-place' in the singular or plural; the phrase may, however, have been used to denote pagan Saxon cemeteries, rather than prehistoric barrows. Barrows seldom, if ever, exist on sites called 'heathen burial-place' in Saxon charters. There is, however, near Beugeworth in Worcestershire, an instance of 'Haethene George' = Heathen Barrow.

The Saxon for a grave is byrgels, plural byrgelsas. Frequently byrgels is coupled with a personal name, perhaps the name of the person buried, or perhaps the name of the owner of the mound if the burial is marked by a barrow.

Kemble found 21 references to a personal name associated with beorh (plural beorgas), which is Saxon for a mound. The name generally denoted a burial-mound but may have been occasionally applied to natural hills. Kemble found about the same number of personal names attached to hlaew, plural hlaews, which is Saxon for a mound, and was likewise used generally for a barrow but perhaps occasionally for a natural hill. Personal names are nearly always associated with beorh and hlaew in the singular. When beorh or hlaew is in the plural, 'it may denote the barrows belonging to the person named, either as lying upon his estate, or as being the ancient resting-place of his family, seeing that a man could not occupy more than one himself' (Kemble). It is important to note that the personal name associated with hlaew or beorh, does not necessarily mean that the person named is buried in the barrow. Thus Oswald's barrow may mean

¹ *Archaeological Journal*, vol. 14, pp. 119-39.

either the burial-place of Oswald, or else the barrow situated on Oswald's land.

Let us now pass on to some interesting barrows mentioned in the charters. Most of these examples are taken from Dr. Grundy's valuable publications.

A Hampshire charter refers to the 'beorh thae adolfen waes' = 'the barrow that was opened', near Alresford. There are a considerable number of references in charters of Berkshire, Wiltshire and Hampshire, to Brokenan beorge = the broken or opened barrow. This may suggest that it was common to open barrows in Saxon times, and anyway it indicates that a large number of barrows had been opened by that time.

Very common also are references to Rūh or Rugan beorh = the rough barrow, perhaps used for barrows covered with gorse or other vegetation. The common place-name Roborough or Rowborough is frequently derived from rough barrow.

A distinction is sometimes drawn between Turf hlaew = the turf or earthen barrow, and Stan hlaew = the stone barrow or cairn. Other descriptive names are Greatun beorge = the great barrow (Wiltshire); Lytlan beorge (the little barrow) in several localities; Langebeorh = the long barrow (one such instance refers to the long barrow known as Knap Barrow near Damerham Knoll on the Hants-Dorset border). Grene Beorh is the green barrow (grass-covered). Kingberwes is Kingbarrow, an example of which is near Damerham Knoll. Gemot beorh (Hants) denotes the barrow where the meetings are held. Here we have an instance of a barrow being chosen as a place for the holding of assemblies etc. Gemaer and Maer Beorh denote the barrow on the boundary.

Barrows named from birds are not at all uncommon. A few examples will suffice: Fugel hlaew = the bird barrow (Broadway, Worcestershire); Laferean Beorh (Worcestershire) = Lark Barrow; Hafoces hlaew = Hawk's Barrow. The Wiltshire charters also mention Eagle's Barrow and Geese Barrow. One can only suggest that these names arose from the types of bird living at or near the barrows in question.

Berkshire charters mention Cwichelmes hlaew now known as Cuckhamsley, and an Oxfordshire charter mentions Cwichelmes hlaew near Ardley some miles north of Oxford.

The Berkshire Cuckhamsley is an example where the name has undergone little change since Saxon times. Other charter-barrows which can still be identified are Fox barrow near Churn (Berks), Wayland's Smithy in the same county, Bodelus Beorh corrupted to Bowls Barrow (Wiltshire), and Melan beorh corrupted to Millburrow, near Alresford, Hants. The Woden's Barrow of a Wiltshire charter has become transformed into Adam's Grave, a long barrow near the Wansdyke south of Marlborough.

On the Berkshire Downs south of Hardwell Camp was a most interesting barrow called in a Saxon charter 'Dinra Beorh' = Coin Barrow, probably either a barrow where coins had been found, or else a barrow which was supposed to contain a hoard of coins. Compare the various Money Barrows still existing (see chapters on Folk-lore and Local Names). Traditions are also betrayed in Euta hlaew = the Giant's barrow, and Sencean hlaew = the Devil's barrow.

Enough has been written to indicate the wealth of information the charters contain relating to ancient barrows. Surely no barrow-enthusiast can afford to neglect them.

In his brilliant paper on references to heathen interment in the Saxon Charters, Kemble says:—

'I have more than once walked, ridden, or rowed, as land and stream required, round the bounds of Anglo-Saxon estates, and have learnt with astonishment that the names recorded in my charter were those still used by the wood-cutter, or the shepherd, of the neighbourhood.'

4. CONTINUITY OF THE PLACE OF BURIAL

Those who have waded through the formidable masses of evidence quoted by W. Johnson (*Byways in British Archaeology*, Chapters 1 and 2) and A. H. Allcroft (*The Circle and the Cross*, 2 vols.) must surely be convinced that the prehistoric barrow was sometimes utilized not only for secondary burials of many later periods, but also as the site for the Christian church and churchyard. It is true that some of the examples of churches built on or near barrows cited by both these writers are spurious, but there is a residuum which can hardly be explained otherwise than on the assumption of the intentional adaptation of a pagan site for Christian worship and

burial. A church, now ruined, was built in the centre of one of the probably prehistoric circles at Knowlton in Dorset. As space does not warrant an enumeration of similar examples of this continuity, the reader is referred for further details to the two works cited above, especially that by the late A. H. Allcroft.

Addendum :

SAXON CHARTERS

Since this chapter was written Dr. Grundy has published (*Proc. Dorset Arch. Socy.*, vol. 56) some most interesting references to *stancyste* = stone clat, in a Saxon charter of Cheselborne.

PART II
SELECTED REGIONS

CHAPTER I

CORNWALL

A complete burial place may be described as a dolmen, covered by a tumulus, and surrounded by a stone circle. Often, however, we have only the tumulus, sometimes only the dolmen, and sometimes again only the stone circle.

LORD AVEBURY, *Prehistoric Times*, chap. 3

I. THE LAND'S END DISTRICT

MOST visitors to Cornwall, especially the Land's End district, have seen or heard of some of the rude stone monuments scattered over the remoter parts of the downs. These stone monuments have been variously called cromlechs, dolmens, quoits, menhirs, and stone circles. The word cromlech is often applied to stone circles, the suggested derivation being from *crom* (a circle) and *lech* (stone). In Cornwall, however, the word cromlech has been generally used to mean a stone burial-cist or chamber, the suggested derivation being from the Cornish *crom* (crooked or bent) and *lech* (stone). In other parts of England these stone burial-cists or chambers have been called dolmens (*daul* = table, and *maen* = stone). This use of cromlech to mean different things in different places is most confusing, and it would be good if the words cromlech and dolmen were banished from the vocabulary. In this chapter the word 'burial-chamber' will be used to describe the sites marked on the maps or described in books as cromlechs, and the words cromlech and dolmen will not be used at all. Menhir comes from the Cornish *maen* (a stone) and *hir* (long), and is always used to mean a long stone generally standing erect. The word Quoit, like cromlech, is used in Cornwall to denote a burial-chamber.

Let us now describe a few of the more impressive and interesting of the burial-chambers. It should first be noted that

they were all originally covered by a mound. They are therefore the burial-chambers or cists of former barrows. The best-known example in the Land's End area is the Lanyon Quoit. It is so well known that it may be described as a trippers' monument. It is situated by the side of a road along which buses pass; picture-postcards and models of it are in the shops at Penzance; almost every hotel and boarding-house in Penzance has a picture of it on the wall. The tripper comes, looks at the monument, gapes, and goes away apparently well satisfied, babbling about the Romans, and little knowing or caring that the monument (2000-1500 B.C.) is not in its original form. The capstone was originally high enough for a man on horseback to pass beneath it; it is now only about 5 feet high. It fell during a storm in 1815 or 1816, and the uprights must have been damaged on this occasion and shortened when the capstone was re-erected in 1824. In its present form the monument may be described as of the tripod type, the capstone resting on three slender supports. Originally there may have been other supports, and there may have been some stones filling in the gaps between them so as to form a wall enclosing a burial-chamber.¹ The shape of the covering mound has been claimed by Hencken to have been long, but I do not feel sure that this was so. Long barrows are very rare in Devon and Cornwall.

The other burial-chambers in the Land's End district are quite different from that at Lanyon. They are all rectangular, with one or more very large slabs of stone (generally granite) for each side. That at Chûn (of course pronounced Choone) has the capstone still in place. In the other two good examples, at Zennor and Mulfra, the capstone has partly fallen. A special feature of the Zennor example is the presence of a kind of antechamber on the eastern side. All these burial-chambers are well worth visiting. A dilapidated example, which was covered by a mound until the latter part of the eighteenth century, exists about half a mile west of the Lanyon Quoit. The date of these monuments has not been very accurately established, as none of the Cornish examples has been investigated with the care necessary to establish a

¹ It should be noted, however, that a grave was found extending to a depth of 6 feet below ground-level underneath Lanyon Quoit.



CHÉN QUOIT, WEST CORNWALL.



CHAMBERED ROUND BARROW (THE CHAPEL EUNY BARROW)
NEAR BRANLE, WEST CORNWALL.

maximum of facts. A most likely date for them is the Early Bronze Age.

A small example, not marked on the maps, is about 150 yards south of the stream between Porthmeor and Bosporthemnis (pronounced Bosprennis), and 300 yards west-north-west of the latter hamlet. It is a typical stone cist, and it created consternation in the antiquarian world about 1860 by reason of the circular capstone. To quote Copeland Borlase,

the fame of the discovery quickly spread, 'The Local Antiquarianism of the whole neighbourhood was awakened immediately, and servants of all shapes, sexes, and ages, 'visited and inspected' the stone. The sphere for conjecture was of course unlimited, and ranged from Arthur's round table, to the circular tombs of modern Bengal. . . . But . . . edging his way through the crowd which surrounded the monument, until he had reached the front rank, an old man was heard dispelling the fond illusion in the following cruel words: 'Now what are 'e all tellin' of? I do mind when Uncle Jan, he that was miller down to Porthmeor, cum' up 'long to the croft a speering round for a fitty ston of es mill. And when he had worked 'pon that there ston; says he: "I'll be jist gone to knack un a blt round like"; so he pitched to work; but 'e wouldn't serve 'es purpose, so there 'e es still. And, lor bless yer all, a fine passel o' pepple has been heere for to look 'pon un, but what they sees en un es more than I can tell 'e.'¹

A group of stones that may have formed part of a burial-chamber or cist is the celebrated Mên-an-tol, about a mile north of the Lanyon Quoit. The custom of passing children through the holed stone in the Mên-an-tol has already been related in the folk-lore chapter. As I was walking towards the monument in August 1935 I observed an elderly man on his evening stroll crawling through the holed stone. I feel sure he did it for luck.

Of great interest are a few chambered round barrows which bear a great resemblance to those of the Scilly Isles, from which they were almost certainly derived. Among the best-preserved examples are one of a group of three barrows among very thick gorse and bracken near the turf-track between the Gurnard's Head Hotel and Bosporthemnis; a more accessible one at Pennance near the track between

¹ *Naenia Cornubiae*, p. 68.

Kerrowe and Boskednan; and a very fine though tiny one known as the Chapel Euny barrow between Tredinney and Brane, two miles south of the road between Penzance and St. Just. Each of these three examples consists of a circular barrow between 8 and 10 yards diameter and between 5 and 8 feet high, surrounded by a retaining-wall of large granite slabs. A gap generally in the east of this retaining wall forms the entrance to the burial-chamber, which is between 6 and 10 feet long, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, and about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, in its present form. The burial-chamber is roofed with between 3 and 5 large granite slabs. The slab over the entrance is generally placed slightly lower than the others. The walls of the chamber are formed of slabs and boulders of granite, not as a rule very large. These are very neat and interesting little barrows, and those at Chapel Euny and Penmance are especially worth a visit. They probably belong to the Early Bronze Age.

Of the stone circles of west Cornwall, some appear to have been always free-standing and were probably religious rather than sepulchral. There is a good one south of Carn Kenidjack called the Nine Maidens; another of the same name, apparently overlapped by a round barrow, is near Boskednan and slightly east of the Mên-an-tol. Another fine example is the 'Merry Maidens' at Boscawen-un. (Let us make this place-name come to life: *hos* = a dwelling; *seawen* = an elder-tree; *oon* = down; 'the dwelling by the elder-tree on the down'). An example about a mile south-east of Porthmeor may be sepulchral: the circle of stones is set in a ring-mound.

Space does not permit an account of the numerous round barrows of this region which have little or no stonework visible; neither does it permit a description of the interesting though irrelevant hill-forts (*Chûn* is a good one), fagons or caves (one of the best is at Brane), or ancient villages (*Chysauster* is the best known). For these the reader cannot do better than consult the literature at the end of this chapter, especially Hencken's book.

2. THE CHEESEWING AREA

On the south-eastern part of Bodmin Moor are situated a group of antiquities, the most famous of which are the three

stone circles known as the Hurlers, a number of cairns one of which yielded a famous gold cup, and the largest burial-chamber in Cornwall known as the Trethevy Stone (pronounced Tretheevy).

A suitable itinerary of these remains may be made by starting from the village of St. Cleer, in the stationers' shops of which may be obtained postcard-views of the local antiquities.

A road to the north-east from St. Cleer, past St. Cleer's Well, leads to a stream, after which the road continues as a quaint sunken track towards Trethevy Stone. Trethevy is, in the words of Norden, 'a litle howse rayseed of mightie stones, standing on a litle hill within a feilde'. The monument is in a fine state of preservation, though it has been denuded of nearly all the mound with which it was formerly covered. It consists of seven uprights, one of which has fallen, and a large coverstone. The coverstone is at present in a slanting position, partly due to the falling of one of the uprights. It is about 10 feet high. This capstone has in it 'an arteficiall holl, which served as it seemeth to putt out a staffe, whereof the house it selfe was not capable'. At the lower corner of the most massive of the uprights is a rectangular hole, called by Norden 'the dore or Entrance'. This hole seems to be natural but the stone may have been specially selected on account of the presence of this rectangular gap.

A road northwards from Trethevy Stone is continued over the western side of Caradon Hill (on which are some mutilated cairns) as a sunken track through a region of old tin-mines. On the hill to the west is an old Cornish cross. The sunken track from Trethevy meets a metalled road at Minions or the Cheesewring village, near the westernmost house of which is Minion's Mound, marked on the 6-inch O.S. maps as a tumulus, but it is really the filled-in shaft of a tin-mine. Behind the village are the celebrated Hurlers, so-called from a tradition that they were men turned into stones for playing the game of hurling (rather like football) on a Sunday. The Hurlers consist of three stone circles arranged nearly in a line; the southern circle is not so well preserved as the others. The central one is at the time of writing being excavated by Mr. Raleigh Radford. They doubtless belong

to the Bronze Age. In his *Memoirs* of 1675, Dr. Younge writes, referring to these circles, that 'they are now easily numbered but the people have a story that they never could till a man took many penny Loafes and laying one on each hurler did compute by the remⁿ what number they were'.

Between the Hurlers and the Cheesewring is the barrow in which the gold cup was found. It is a large round barrow about 30 yards in diameter and (as far as I remember) about 6 feet high. It has a very large oblong hollow in the centre. At the southern side is a stone cist, about 7 or 8 feet long, 3 feet high, and 4 feet wide (internal dimensions). In this cist the gold cup is said to have been found, enclosed in an earthenware vessel which was placed near the breast of an extended skeleton. A bronze implement (? spear-head or knife-dagger) and one or two minor articles were associated. Some boys living in the vicinity told the writer this barrow was called King Arthur's Grave. The gold cup is of a type similar to those in amber and shale from Farway near Honiton (Devon), Clandon near Dorchester, and Hove, Sussex. It may be dated between 1700 and 1400 B.C.

The story of the folk-lore of the gold cup has been told in the folk-lore chapter. It is sufficient here to recall that before the barrow was opened there was a tradition that a priest with an inexhaustible cup of gold dwelt near the Cheesewring. A golden boat is also said to have been found in this area. It is not surprising that all the cairns in the neighbourhood have now been rilled in the hope of finding treasure!

North of the barrow is the natural formation known as the Cheesewring, the topmost stone of which is said to turn round *when it hears* the cock crow! Another stone near-by is known as the Druid's chair—perhaps the chair of the priest who had the golden cup.

All the sites just described may be worked into a delightful afternoon's ramble, and those who have additional time to spare will find many other ancient remains in the neighbourhood.

CORNISH GLOSSARY:

Carn—a rock (natural).

Crom—crooked, or bent.

Lech—a flat stone.

Cramlerh—a burial-chamber surmounted by a slanting flat capstone.

Maen, Men—a stone.

Hir—long.

Menhir—a long stone, or monolith, generally standing upright.

Tol—a hole.

Mén-an-tol—A holed stone.

Quoit—a cromlech.

Ros—a heath.

Dan, or goon—a down (downs).

Crow—a hovel, or hut (e.g. the Giant's Crow, a chambered barrow at Penmance).

Cruc, creeg—a barrow.

Fougou or Fogou—a cave.

Scrive—to write.

Mén Scrifys—inscribed stone.

N.B.—Most Cornish place-names in three syllables have the middle syllable stressed: e.g., Bosked'un; Trethe'vy; Tredin'ney; Bojew'yun.

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1-inch O.S. *Fifth (Relief) Edition*, Sheet 136 or 144 (Cheesewring area).

2-inch O.S. Map of the Scilly Isles (Fifth Relief Edition).

6-inch O.S. Cornwall, 67 NE., SW., and SE., and 68 NW. (Land's End).

6-inch O.S. Cornwall, 28 NW. (Cheesewring area).

MUSEUM :

The Museum of the Penzance N.H. and Antiquarian Society contains good models of Chûn, Mulfra, Lanyon (both), Zennor, and Trethevy, burial-chambers, as well as models of the Mên-an-tol, Chûn Castle, Castle-an-Dinas, and the Bosawen-in stone circle. It also contains a number of urns from local barrows.

CHAPTER II

DARTMOOR

Barren, solitary, desolate as it is now, Dartmoor is rich in traces of former inhabitants. Scarcely a hillside but has its hut-circle ; . . . fragments of trackways frequently lost in the bogs, tracklines marking out divisions of aboriginal villages, are ever and anon encountered on steep slope or wind-swept plain, while barrows and cairns, crowning its hills, mark the resting-place of mighty ones long since passed away.—PAUL, *Exploration of Dartmoor*, chapter 3

It is proposed to devote the first part of this chapter to a general account of the sepulchral monuments of Dartmoor, and the second part to a more detailed description of the antiquities of Ugborough Moor in the south-east of that region.

The barren tract known as Dartmoor is about 20 miles from north to south and 15 from west to east, and apart from a few occupied areas mostly on the road between Princetown and Chagford, almost the sole occupants of the territory are the cairns, stone circles, stone cists or kistvaens, hut circles, and stone rows of a prehistoric age. Many of these vestiges are of very great interest, and the study of them is the work of a lifetime. In fact it has been the work of at least two lifetimes, those of R. Nigel Worth and R. Hansford Worth, father and son, of whose prolific writings the author has made use in compiling this chapter.

On the extreme western edge of Dartmoor is Brentor, crowned by a church concerning which is a tradition, which is not uncommon, that the original intention was to build it at the foot of the hill ; but the stones collected for the building were mysteriously removed from the bottom to the top of the hill, whereat the builders then decided that it must be the desire of Providence that the church be placed on the hilltop, where it was therefore ultimately erected.

A short distance south of Brentor is Tavistock, from which a metalled road runs eastwards across Dartmoor. The easiest way of exploring the moor is to take this road. The first important group of antiquities is reached at Merivale, where is a complex of stone rows, standing stones (or menhirs), cairns, hut circles, and a stone cist. This group is typical of a Dartmoor prehistoric site. It will be noticed that the hut circles look like ruined rings of stones. The Merivale stone avenues are particularly good examples; they consist of two roughly parallel straight avenues, each of which is composed of two parallel rows close together; so that there are four rows in all. The Dartmoor stone rows are generally terminated at one or both ends by a circle or cairn, and frequently at one end by a menhir. It appeared to R. N. Worth

that these stone rows are purely sepulchral; that the burial places with which they are connected are those of people in their day of position and authority, and that the length of the rows and the number of the stones indicate with more or less precision the number of . . . active mourners.

Slightly south of the southern avenue at Merivale, and north-east of a well-preserved stone circle, is a very fine large stone cist, one of the largest on Dartmoor. The internal dimensions are 3 feet wide, 3 feet high, and 6 feet long; the external dimensions are 4 feet 6 inches wide, and the same height; the roof, which is composed of three capstones, measures 10 feet in length.

The reader should note that the stone cists on Dartmoor are referred to in nearly all books and on nearly all maps as *kistvaens*, a term used by the early antiquaries. The Ordnance Survey are altering the term *kistvaen* to *cist* on the Fifth Relief and other new maps, and the writer has decided to use the word 'stone cist' for *kistvaen* in the present work. The word *kistvaen* is now archaic.

For the average person the most pleasant route from Merivale onwards is to miss the prison at Princetown by avoiding the turning to the south-east at Rendlestone (which by the way is probably the site of a prehistoric monument). Nearly two miles to the east of Rendlestone (or Rundlestone)



THE SPINSTERS' ROCK. DREWSTEIGTON



THE LAKEHEAD GREAT STONE, CIST, CIRCLE AND ROW,
DARTMOOR



is Two Bridges where is a hotel. In the vicinity of Royal Hill, about two miles to the south-east, are several good stone cists.

The road north-eastwards from Two Bridges leads to Lakehead Hill, where are some very fine stone cists, including one with an associated circle of stones (probably the retaining-circle of a cairn) and a fine stone row (see plate IX). This cist is among the finest on Dartmoor. It differs from that at Merivale in being above the ground level. North of it is a group of hut circles in an enclosure or pound. Not far away is Postbridge with its primitive Cyclopean Bridge which is probably of great antiquity.

Three miles north of Postbridge, as the crow flies, are the two well-known stone circles known as the Grey Wethers, north-east of which is the Fernworthy stone circle. A road from here eastwards leads to Metherall, where is a fine stone row, and thence northwards to Yardworthy and Chagford.

About two miles north of Chagford, and west of Drewsteignton, is the celebrated megalith known as the Spinsters' Rock, from the legend that it was set up by three spinsters one morning before breakfast. It is the only monument of its kind in Devon. It appears to be a burial-chamber akin to the various Quoits (such as Lanyon, Mulfra, and Trethevy) of Cornwall. There appear to have been at one time stone rows and circles near the Spinsters' Rock.

It remains to refer to certain other sites which are some distance from the road between Tavistock and Chagford.

About three miles south-east of Okehampton is the circle near Belstone known as the Nine Stones—maidens turned into stone for dancing on the Sabbath. They are the remains of the retaining-circle of a barrow which has otherwise been destroyed.

South of Chagford, between Shapley Common and Widecombe-in-the-Moor, is an important group of sites including the group of hut circles known as Grimspond, and some barrows with local names, including Broad Barrow, Single Barrow and Two Barrows.

Between Princetown and Yelverton, south of the main road, are some hut circles, cairns and stone rows, and on Yellowmead Down near Sheeps Tor is a very curious circle, consisting

in fact of four concentric circles, in the innermost of which was a barrow. Mr. R. Hansford Worth has written: 'taken as a whole the monument is unique on Dartmoor and is one which no student of moorland antiquities can afford to neglect'.

South-east of this monument is a track known as Abbot's Way, along which some eerie wish-hounds are said to gallop at nights.

UGHOROUGH MOOR

One of the most prolific barrow-districts on the moor is north-east of Ivybridge, which is a convenient starting-point for exploring. It is easily accessible by train or bus from Plymouth. A road past the paper mills east of the River Erme leads to the tiny village of Harford, from which there is a track leading north-eastwards on to the moor. The moor is reached at Harford Moor Gate, a few yards south of which are some hut circles on a hillslope overlooking Butter Brook. It may here be emphasized that, as a rule, hut circles on Dartmoor are on hillslopes, while barrows are on hilltops. Each of the Harford Moor Gate hut circles consists of a ring of earth and stones between 9 and 12 yards across. This is also the appearance of most if not all of the other Dartmoor hut circles.

A track northwards from Harford Moor Gate leads to a hut circle and a stone cist. The latter is surrounded by a circle of stones, only 6 yards in diameter, which is the retaining-circle of a barrow that has been removed thus exposing the stone cist, which is composed of one small and three large stones for the sides; the coverstone has gone. North-west of this cist is another group of hut circles. All these remains are on the western slope of Harford Moor.

A walk of about half a mile north-eastward brings the rambler on to the top of the moor, where there is a trackway. There is also the remains of a light railway here. Sharp Tor to the north is crowned by a cairn, and nearly a mile farther northwards are the Three Barrows, which can be seen on a clear day from a considerable distance. They are all cairns, and the largest, which is about 50 yards across and 8 feet high, is reputed to be among the largest barrows in

Devon. To the west of the Three Barrows, the barrow known as Hillson's House is visible, together with a fine stone row.

A walk southwards along the track east of Sharp Tor leads to Piles Hill, which is crowned with two barrows. It may be mentioned in passing that all the known Dartmoor barrows are circular. The northern of the two cairns on Piles Hill is normal. The southern example is of a rare type, consisting of a central mound, surrounded by a fairly level platform which is enclosed in an outer bank. South-east of Piles Hill is Glascombe Ball, crowned by a large cairn. Further south is the remains of Spurrell's Cross, near which are three cairns, west of which a very long stone row runs southwards towards Butterdon Hill, passing a large cratered cairn on its way. This stone row is very fine. The stones are placed at intervals of a yard or two, and some of them are still in their original upright positions. The stone row ends, as nearly all such rows do, in what appears to be a cratered barrow surrounded by a retaining-circle which is marked on the 6-inch maps as a Stone Circle. The stones of this circle turn inwards towards the mound, which probably covers a stone cist. Nearby are several cairns on Butterdon Hill, Ugborough Beacon, and Western Beacon. On the south-west and south-east slopes of Butterdon Hill are some hut circles.

The region thus traversed contains no less than thirty cairns, many hut circles, and a fine stone row as well as a stone cist. To the north of Three Barrows the moors are equally prolific, especially in hut circles on the slopes of the Rivers Erme and Avon which bound Ugborough Moor on the west and east.

Readers who wish to amplify this very brief and sketchy account of Dartmoor prehistoric sites cannot do better than consult the papers by the two Worths in the proceedings of the Devonshire Association.

In conclusion it must be emphasized that the real Dartmoor is not to be found by charging along the Tavistock-Chagford road in a car. The real Dartmoor is revealed only to those who explore on foot the remotest parts, in all weathers and at all seasons.

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CHAPTER III

STANTON DREW AND THE MENDIP HILLS

This noble monument is vulgarly called the Weddings; and they say, 'tis a company that assisted at a nuptial ceremony thus petrify'd. In an orchard near the church is a cove consisting of three stones . . . this they call the parson, the bride and bridegroom. Other circles are said to be the company dancing: and a separate parcel of stones standing a little from the rest are call'd the fiddlers, or the band of musick.—STUKELEY, *Itinerarium Curiosum*

THE charming village of Stanton Drew is some five miles south of Bristol and the same distance north of the Mendip Hills. Slightly east of the village is a very large stone circle, which has the remains of what may be a stone avenue extending north-eastwards. To the north of this avenue is a smaller stone circle, and there is another small circle south of the largest one. Behind the 'Druids' Arms' Inn is a group of three very large stones known as the Cove; the purpose of the Cove is not known, but the monument is almost certainly contemporary with the adjoining stone circles. North of the circles is a single stone known as Hautville's Quoit, from the tradition that one Sir John Hautville threw it from the hill to the north known as Maes Knoll.

It is said that the Stanton Drew stones cannot be counted correctly—

No one, say the country people about Stanton-dreue, was ever able to reckon the number of these metamorphosed stones, or to take a draught of them, though several have attempted to do both, and proceeded till they were either struck dead upon the spot, or with such an illness as soon carried them off.¹

There is little or no evidence that any of the Stanton Drew monuments was sepulchral; in fact the country in the

¹ Wood, *Description of Bath*, vol. 1, p. 148.

immediate vicinity does not appear to contain barrows. Still these stones are much too important to be omitted from a glimpse of the prehistory of Mendip and its surroundings.

Before mounting the Mendip Hills it is well to note a few of the more important sites near-by. Five miles west of Stanton Drew, and near Butcombe, is the chambered long barrow known as Fairy's Toot, supposed to be the haunt of ghosts, goblins, and fairies. Report has it that strange noises have been heard beneath this mound. It is a long barrow of true passage-grave type, having burial-chambers leading off from a central passage.

A similar barrow in better condition is the fine chambered long barrow at Stoney Littleton, 5 miles south of Bath. This is likewise of true passage-grave type, having an entrance leading to a passage 48 feet long, with three burial-chambers on each side and one at the end. The key to this monument is obtainable at Stoney Littleton Farm half a mile to the south-west, and the admission fee is 3d. The mound is surrounded by a low wall of dry stone walling a foot or two high. At least some of this walling is probably original. The entrance to the passage beneath the mound is placed between two convex horns, and consists of two uprights and a capstone. The passage is in good condition and is about 4 feet high and 4 feet wide. The seven burial-chambers are of similar dimensions. Ramblers are strongly advised to take an electric torch when viewing the passage and chambers of this monument, the interior of which is very dark. It should be noticed that the roofing slabs of the passage do not normally rest directly on the large wall-stones, but rest on an intermediate layer of piled-up dry stone walling. The roofing is largely by corbelling, overlapping layers of dry stone walling converging towards the roof, the whole being surmounted by a capstone. These structural features are frequently met with in barrows of this kind, and they are seen better at Stoney Littleton than at almost any other barrow.

Among the finest round barrows in Somerset is a beautifully-formed bell-burrow with an outer bank, immediately north of the railway line half a mile west of West Cranmore near Shepton Mallet. It is the best of a group of three, and is

'well turned' in the best Wiltshire tradition. It was opened in 1869 and yielded a cremation and two bronze knife-daggers.

We now ascend the Mendip Hills, the most tumular part of which is north of the railway between Wells and Cheddar, from which stations, or from Wookey, this region is very accessible. The Mendip Hills resemble parts of the moors of Cornwall and Derbyshire in being riddled in places with shafts of old lead-mines. The mining industry, which ceased many years ago, is reflected also in the names of some of the inns: the Miners' Arms is in the centre of the Priddy barrow-area, and is a good and popular unlicensed roadhouse. It is fortunate for archaeology that in the Middle Ages some attention was paid to the bounds of the Mendip mining areas, for barrows are sometimes mentioned in the perambulations of these bounds.

The ancient town of Wells forms a convenient starting-point for a barrow-hunt. In the words of Leland, it 'is sette yn the rootes of Mendepe hille in a stony soile and ful of springes, whereof it hath the name. . . . I esteeme it to lak litle of a 2 miles in ennpaace, al for the most part buildid of stone'. A road to the north-east leads to a narrow track to the west by the first milestone. This track leads to Pen Hill, on which is a long barrow which I have not yet seen. There is also a small round barrow on this hill, surmounted by a pile of stones. East of the Hunter's Lodge Inn near-by, and north of the road to Hill Grove, is a fine circular barrow, intermediate between bell and disc types. It has however been damaged by the sinking of lead-mine shafts, especially on the east side. On Stock Hill to the north is a fine group of tumuli, about five in number, all of bowl shape, the largest of which is about 10 feet high. The surrounding ground is riddled with old mine-shafts.

To the north-west are two large bowl-barrows east of the road to the Miners' Arms, and there is a tree-covered example to the west. On North Hill still farther west are the two finest groups on Mendip—the Priddy Nine Barrows and the Ashen Hill Barrows. The former are the southern group, and it consists entirely of bowl-barrows. The Ashen Hill group contains eight examples in a row, most of which are bracken-covered. They are all bowls except one near the

centre which is a doubtful bell. From this hill fine views are obtainable, and Glastonbury Tor is visible from the Priddy group.

A track from the Priddy group northwards leads to the metalled road where there is a large barrow on a parish-boundary. North of this is another track leading to the well-known earth circles, four in number, arranged from north to south. Their period and purpose appear to be unknown; local tradition inclines to the belief that they are Roman. Each circle has an overall diameter of about 200 yards or more, and consists of a flat central area surrounded by a bank and outer ditch. The southern circle is the best preserved. An isolated circle of similar type is on Beacon Hill east of the Fosse Way and north of Shepton Mallet. There is a group of similar ones near Thornborough, Yorkshire (boundary of North and West Ridings).

To the south-west is the village of Priddy, near the church of which are two round barrows. The surrounding heaths are strewn with barrows in singles and groups. Some of the best groups are near Bristol Plain Farm to the west. They nearly all consist of large bowls, but there is a small long barrow, about 75 feet long, three quarters of a mile west of the village inn. The moors within about 2 miles of Priddy contain about a hundred tumuli, which are observable on the skyline in almost all directions. Although they are large and impressive, they form a rather monotonous series as they are nearly all of the common bowl type. There is, however, a probable bell-barrow at Westbury Beacon near Cheddar but I have not yet seen it.

Some years ago a round barrow west of Pool Farm, near the northernmost of the four earth circles, was opened under the direction of Rev. Father Ethelbert Horne, F.S.A., and his excavations exposed a fine stone cist containing a cremation, in the centre of the mound. The earth of the mound was almost entirely removed, but the stone cist remains in its original position, an object of considerable interest, and is well worth a visit.

Several barrows near Priddy and Ashen Hill were opened in 1815 by Rev. John Skinner, a noted local antiquary who was a friend of Sir Richard Colt Hoare and other eminent

antiquaries. All the barrows Skinner opened with result yielded primary burials by cremation, and were evidently of Middle Bronze Age. Skinner committed suicide in 1839, leaving nearly a hundred volumes of beautifully written manuscripts of his travels and antiquarian researches, which he bequeathed to the British Museum.

This chapter cannot be drawn to a close without reference to the celebrated caves at Cheddar, Wookey, and elsewhere, which are in the midst of this range of beautiful moors covered with gorse and bracken. These caves should be visited by all who come to this area. Wookey Hole cave is very near the main barrow-centre.

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CHAPTER IV

DORCHESTER AND THE RIDGEWAY

Certainly, for healthful air and prospect, a most delightful place ; and, for sight of barrows, I believe not to be equalled in the world.
STUKELEY, *Itinerarium Curiosum*, 1776, p. 163

SLIGHTLY south of the road from Bridport to Dorchester is a range of chalk downs which are littered with prehistoric remains including long and round barrows, stone circles, entrenchments, and camps. The profusion of sites begins at the turning from the main road to Long Bredy. At this point, north of the road, are two large round barrows, one of which appears to be a bell, and a short distance eastwards is a third example. From the highest of the three a good view may be obtained of a standing stone in a field to the east.

A green track from this point south-eastwards mounts the chalk downs and after a few yards leads the rambler to an enormous earthwork about 200 yards long with a ditch on each side. Continuing his way eastwards the rambler passes a conical ditched bowl-barrow and then a small long barrow with ditches along the sides but not round the ends. Next comes a truncated bowl-barrow with surrounding ditch. The inexperienced earthwork-hunter must beware of classing this mound as a ring- or platform-barrow. Then follow a few small round ones, and by the track leading to the seventh milestone on the main road is a large bowl with a massive stone boulder on top.

As the walker continues along the ridgeway he gets a fine view of an extensive spread of barrows on the slopes of Black Down to the north. This group is well worth seeing at close quarters as it contains some fine bells, discs, and other more exceptional types. A fine disc-barrow north of the road at



ENTRANCE TO THE STONEY LITTLETON LONG BARROW



BELL-BARROW NEAR MAIDEN CASTLE, DORCHESTER



Poor Lot is also visible from the ridgeway, and the long mound behind this dis is a group of three confluent howls.

From the barrow crowned by a stone boulder is a track leading southwards over Whatcombe Down and across a stream to a stone circle south-west of Little Bredy. This circle is composed of about eighteen prostrate stones and is in excellent condition. A short distance south-east is the long barrow containing the stones known as the Grey Mare and her Colts. These stones are at the eastern end of the mound and are probably the remains of a burial-chamber, or of the entrance to one. From here it is just over a mile to the charming village of Portisham where a halt for lunch is recommended. In this village lived Admiral Hardy who was captain of the *Victory* at the Battle of Trafalgar. His house is still standing.

North-east of Portisham is a burial-chamber known as the Hell Stone, protruding from the vestige of what may have been a long barrow. It consists at present of an enormous capstone supported by nine uprights, rather more than 5 feet high. This impressive structure is not, however, in its original form. It was, as Lieut.-Colonel Drew informs the writer, restored about a century ago, and the monument in its present condition may bear little resemblance to its original plan. About a mile distant is the Hardy Monument, erected in memory of Admiral Hardy. Black Down on which the monument is situated consists of sandy heathland studded with round barrows including one or two rather good bells.

From the Hardy Monument the great Ridgeway runs eastwards for several miles and is thickly studded with tumuli as far as White Horse Hill above Osnington. As the track goes over Bronkham Hill it passes a group of fine bowls and a very fine bell-barrow on heathland. From Corton Down onwards we are once again on the chalk, and for the next mile or more there are large howl-burrows on each side of the Ridgeway at frequent intervals. A grand view of Maiden Castle, the great Early Iron Age hill fort, is obtainable to the north, and to the south are magnificent views of Weymouth, Portland Bill, Chesil Bank, and the sea. West of Maiden Castle may be seen a large conical mound in a ploughed field; this is Clandon Barrow, in which was found in 1882 a celebrated

amber cup of the Early Bronze Age, now in Dorchester Museum. Some gold ornaments were found in the same barrow. North of Maiden Castle is an enormous bell-barrow illustrated in Plate X.

Immediately east of the point of intersection of the Ridgeway with the road from Upwey to Winterborne St. Martin, is a very large tumulus intermediate in type between bell and disc. It consists of a circular mound 7 feet high placed on a platform over 30 yards in diameter, and this platform is surrounded by a ditch with outer bank, the diameter of the whole earthwork being about 75 yards. It is one of the finest examples of its kind in existence, although unfortunately the eastern side has been ploughed out. Some of the barrows on the Ridgeway immediately west of the Dorchester-Weymouth road were opened in the latter part of last century by Edward Cunnington, whose finds and unpublished notes are in Dorchester Museum, as Lieut.-Colonel Drew informs me.

South of the Ridgeway and immediately east of the road to Weymouth is a small round barrow set round with a circle of stones, in a ploughed field. East of this is Bincombe Down, crowned by a very fine large bell-barrow on heathland, and one or two smaller bowls. Continuing eastwards the rambler passes a number of tumuli on a golf-course, and a very fine group at Culliford Tree east of Came Wood. Many of the barrows in this region were opened by Charles Warne and are described in his *Celtic Tumuli of Dorset*. The name Culliford Tree is given to a clump of trees on a large round barrow surrounded by a tree-planting earth circle of recent origin. This mound is known as the Music Barrow, from a belief that at the apex of the mound a melody may be heard at mid-day. (It must be the rustling of the trees!) North of this mound is a gorse-covered long barrow with flank ditches. East of Culliford Tree are some bowls and a nearly levelled ring-mound, perhaps a ring-barrow, and there is also a most unusual arrangement consisting of a long entrenchment with a barrow at each end. The trench may not have any relation to the barrows, but if it has, it may be paralleled by the Long Low near Wetton, Staffordshire, which likewise consists of a long walled entrenchment with a circular mound at each end.

Culliford Tree commands fine views of Chalbury Camp, Portland, and the sea to the south. To the south-west a fine group of tumuli on Bincombe Hill is visible. Among this group is a very fine bell-burrow about 10 feet high, and a row of three confluent bowls.

After this rather long perambulation of the downs the ramblers cannot do better than drop down into the old-world village of Sutton Poyntz for a cup of tea. In this connexion I can recommend the Spring Head Hotel, situated opposite a delightful stream (spring head) and a row of cosy thatched cottages. From the village it is easy to get a view of the White Horse on the hill near-by. This figure was cut early in the nineteenth century and represents King George III on horseback.

This chapter cannot close without a reference to the antiquities on the Egdon Heath of Thomas Hardy's novels, situated east of Dorchester. A Roman Road from Dorchester crosses this heath near a group of tumuli known as Rainbarrows, the scene of many of the incidents in Hardy's novel *The Return of the Native*. One of these barrows is thus described by the great Wessex novelist:—

The first tall flame from Rainbarrow sprang into the sky . . . it showed the barrow to be the segment of a globe, as perfect as on the day when it was thrown up, even the little ditch remaining from which the earth was dug. Not a plough had ever disturbed a grain of that stubborn soil. In the heath's barrenness to the farmer lay its fertility to the historian.

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MUSEUM :

The Dorset County Museum at Dorchester contains a good collection of finds from the local barrows, especially those opened by Charles Warne.

CHAPTER V

WOODYATES AND CRANBORNE CHASE

As the explorer advances in a north-eastern direction towards the adjoining county of Wilts, the barrows present increasing evidence of greater refinement and of a further advance in art.

J. SYDENHAM, in *Archæologia*, vol. 30

QUITTING Dorchester by the Salisbury road, the traveller after passing through Blandford will eventually arrive at Tarrant Hinton down, which is crowned with some barrows and entrenchments on the east of the road. A short distance farther on is the cross-roads at Thickethorn. The road to the south-east leads to Thickethorn Down with its long barrows and other ancient earthworks, and the road to the north-west leads to the Pitt-Rivers Museum and Farnham. The Pitt-Rivers Museum is considered to be among the best archaeological museums in the country. It is noted for the models made to scale showing the excavations and marking the exact positions of the articles found. The exhibits in the archaeological department consist in the main of articles illustrating the celebrated excavations undertaken by Lieut.-Gen. Pitt-Rivers on Cranborne Chase and elsewhere towards the end of last century. Pitt-Rivers' tomb is in Tolland Royal Church. Refreshments and lodging if required may be obtained at the Museum Hotel, Farnham, which is a good centre for Cranborne Chase.

The metalled road from Thickethorn cross-roads over Thickethorn down to the south-east leads to some ancient entrenchments and two long barrows, the western example being by far the larger. The eastern one was opened in 1933 by Lieut.-Colonel C. D. Drew, and Messrs. Alexander Keiller and Stuart Piggott. The barrow appears to have been a cenotaph, a most thorough search having failed to reveal the

primary burial, which could not have perished because animals' bones near the ground-level under the barrow were in a good state of preservation. Most long barrows have a stratum of black earth on the original turf-level beneath the mound. This was well-exposed at Thickthorn. Secondary burials with beakers were found just beneath the top of the mound.

On Gussage Hill nearly two miles to the north-east is a group of three long barrows, with other earthworks associated. The metalled road to Salisbury and the Roman Aekling Dyke converge and meet 2 miles north of Gussage Down. A mile north of that hill the two roads enclose a group of round barrows on Wyke Down. On Handley Hill still farther north are a few more, near where the road to Handley cuts the Aekling Dyke. Half a mile north of Handley Hill cross-roads is the celebrated Wor Barrow, a long barrow which was opened by Pitt-Rivers. It contained a burial in a rectangular area surrounded by wooden posts. A model of this excavated barrow is in the Farnham Museum. Pitt-Rivers never replaced the earth after opening this barrow, the earth-heaps outside the ditch of which are his unreplaced dumps. The long barrows at Thickthorn, Gussage and Wor Barrow are part of an important group of long barrows on the downs of north-east Dorset.

The road from Handley Hill to Cranborne forms a triangle with the Salisbury Road and the Aekling Dyke. In this triangle is the celebrated Woodyates group of barrows, one of the finest groups in the country.

The Woodyates group consists of at least 26 barrows of which 22 are inside the triangle formed by the roads. Among the group are two diminutive long barrows in which cremations, apparently primary burials, were found by Colt Hoare who opened several examples in this group. These long barrows, of which there are several in the southern counties and Yorkshire, probably belong to a later date (Bronze Age) than the Neolithic long barrows which tend to be larger, and contain unburnt burials.

Bowl-barrows are the most numerous kind at Woodyates, where they number about 14, and there are several more in outlying groups on Bottlebush Down, Handley Hill and else-

where. A remarkably fine one, mentioned in a Saxon charter as Berendes Beorh, is south of the road from Handley to Cranborne, and just west of the point where it cuts the Ackling Dyke.

The main group at Woodyates contains one doubtful and two well-marked bell-barrows, as well as a disc-barrow with an unusually large mound, which may also be regarded as a bell-barrow with an unusually small mound. The ditch surrounding this mound at a short distance is barely perceptible to the eye although quite clear on an air-photograph.

The most remarkable examples are, however, the disc-barrows, of which there are six, excluding the one with a large mound noted above. One of these, west of the metalled road, has one central tump. Another, immediately east of Ackling Dyke, is now under plough. This barrow is noteworthy in that it is cut across by Ackling Dyke, which is a Roman road, thereby showing that the barrow is pre-Roman. Of the four disc-barrows inside the triangle, three have each two tumps, and the remaining one has three tumps, which is very unusual. One of the disc-barrows with two tumps is oval. The inference is that it was originally constructed to be a twin-barrow. The normal example with two tumps has one in the centre and the other away from the centre. The latter may frequently have been added later. The double-tumped oval disc-barrow just described is the second disc-barrow in this group cut by the Roman Ackling Dyke.

The barrows in this group opened by Hoare yielded an array of cinerary urns, incense-cups, arrow-heads, amber and shale beads and other ornaments, and other articles deposited with the dead. Several barrows in this group appear to belong to the very early Bronze Age, on the evidence of burials of contracted skeletons with beakers.

Nearly two miles north-east of the Woodyates group is the gigantic earthwork known as Bokerly Ditch, which should on no account be missed by the rambler. From this Ditch there runs a road to the south towards Cranborne, whence are two roads leading to Wimborne St. Giles. Near this village are several large bowl-barrows, three of which are in the beautiful park. By the side of a road north of the park there are four bowl-barrows in a row. The pretty village

of Wimborne St. Giles contains a P.R.H.A. inn ('The Bull').

A walk from the village through the park leads to the metalled road running south-west which reaches Knowlton in less than a mile. At Knowlton are five or six earthworks, two of which are large bowl-barrows; the other three or four are large earth circles of unknown purpose but probably religious or sepulchral. The finest earth circle, which is no less than 116 yards in diameter, has the ruins of a church in the centre. Heywood Sumner has written: 'the site of this ruined Christian church, standing within an earthen circle that seems to belong to the unknown religion of the early Britons, and guarded without by a row of ancient yew trees, is indeed most beautiful'.

The other circles are not nearly as well preserved as this one: in fact they are so vague that even their number is difficult to determine.

The road southwards passes a few ploughed barrows, mostly on the west, and a rather prominent tree-covered example near the Horton Inn, from which is a road leading back to Farnham which is about 6 miles distant. The Thickethorn long barrows are passed en route.

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MUSEUM :

The Pitt-Rivers Museum, Farnham, Dorset: contains a unique collection of scale models of excavations in ancient earthworks.

CHAPTER VI

STONEHENGE AND SALISBURY PLAIN

We now come to a noble group of barrows . . . diversified in their forms, perfect in their symmetry, and rich in their contents.

HOARE, *Ancient Wiltshire*, vol. I, p. 109

WE now reach the plains of Stonehenge, where barrows of all kinds, long, bowl, bell, and disc, in singles, twins and triples, are to be found in their most perfect state. For barrow-architecture reaches its zenith on Salisbury Plain. In this region these mounds are more numerous than almost anywhere else in England. As early as 1740, Stukeley wrote that it is 'no small entertainment for a curious person, to remark their beauties, their variety in form and magnitude, their situation. . . . There is likewise a great variety in their shape, and turn, and in their diameters, in their manner of composition. . . . Upon every range of hills, quite round Stonehenge, are successive groups of barrows, for some miles'. The plains of Stonehenge are universally admitted to be the most important barrow-hunting ground in England.

First, a word must be said as to Stonehenge itself. It is a monument about which many volumes and papers have been written, and this is not the place for a detailed account of this famous stone circle. It is enough to say that it originally consisted of an outer circle of sarsens which were placed in the form of trilithons, or groups of two uprights surmounted by a capstone. These capstones had a hollow near each end, which fitted into corresponding projecting knobs on each upright. Inside this outer circle was a circle of so-called 'blue-stones' supposed to have been brought from the Prescelly Hills about 170 miles distant. Inside this circle was a horseshoe-shaped arrangement, again composed of an outer ring of trilithons of sarsen, and an inner ring of single stones of blue-stone. Inside this inner horseshoe was an altar-stone.



SINGLE AND TWIN BELL-HARROWS AMONG THE NORMANTON GROUP, NEAR STONEHENGE, FROM THE AIR

The two tiny circles are fungus-rings



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THE CURSUS GROUP, NORTH OF STONEHENGE, FROM THE AIR

It should be noted that the trilithons may be later than the circles of single stones.

Stonehenge is supposed to have been a temple dedicated to sun-worship. 'The sun rises over the Hele Stone and shines directly on the altar stone and central trilithon on mid-summer day.' The Hele Stone is in the earthen avenue north-east of the circle.

Woodhenge, a timber circle which formerly existed north-east of Stonehenge, near Durrington, is supposed to be a century or two earlier than Stonehenge. The site is marked by a number of stones representing the sites of the original posts, which were in six concentric oval rings.

Stonehenge was evidently a place of worship, and as such was a place of great sanctity. It is for this reason that the whole of the surrounding downs are nothing more nor less than a vast cemetery of a prehistoric age. It is for this reason that the area is of supreme importance to the barrow-student. The late A. Hadrian Allcroft believed that usually 'the churchyard is older than the church'. There are a few long barrows in the immediate vicinity of Stonehenge, and these are probably earlier than the circle. But these few long barrows form but a small part of this vast cemetery, which consists of over 300 round barrows of all the leading types. It is thought that Stonehenge is in date between 1800 and 1000 B.C., and nearly all the round barrows on the surrounding hills are between these two dates. The writer hazards the personal opinion that Stonehenge was in existence before the majority of these barrows were erected; and that most of the barrows were erected near Stonehenge on account of the great sanctity of the site. This idea, if correct, is of fundamental importance.

After seeing Stonehenge the traveller is strongly recommended to inspect some of the groups of barrows in the vicinity. The nearest barrow to Stonehenge, apart from two small ones by the circular bank and ditch surrounding it, is immediately to the east; this is a large bell-barrow. In the plantations further eastward are two groups each known as the Seven Barrows. Stukeley called the northern group the 'Old King Barrows' and the southern group the 'New King Barrows'. At present (1936) they look like large

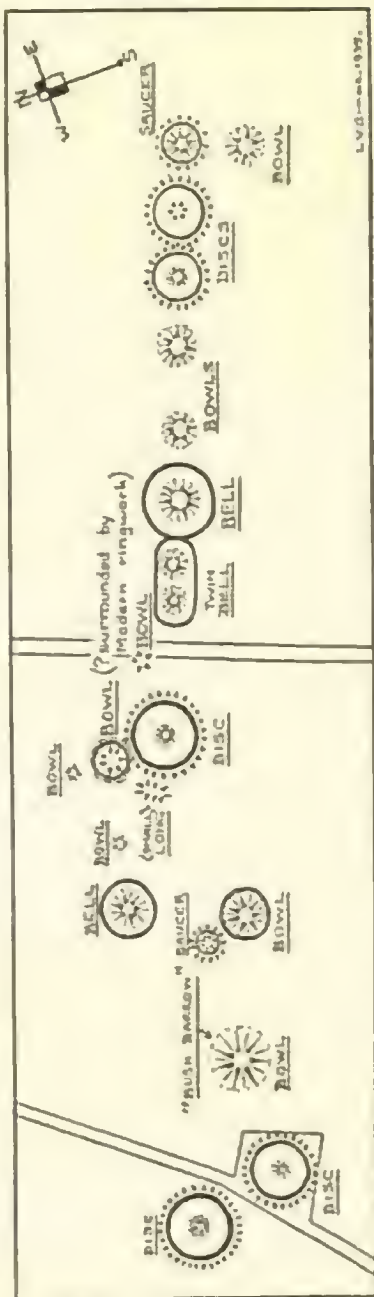
bowls, but they are covered with trees, and burrowing by rabbits may have altered their original form. Some of them may have been bells. One was opened by the Duke of Buckingham in the seventeenth century, and a Mrs. Trotman told the credulous John Aubrey that he found in it 'a huge horn tipt with silver at both ends, which his Grace kept in his closet as a great relique'. The Old and New King Barrows are, however, not by any means the best to look upon, their present condition being not too good.

There is a remarkably fine group north-west of Stonehenge, and south of the Greater Cursus. The Cursus is a very long earthwork of unknown use. There is a smaller one to the north-west, known as the Lesser Cursus. The Greater Cursus barrow-group consists of a row of enormous bowl- and bell-barrows, two of which, near the east end, form a twin. The air-photograph (Plate XI) shows that the barrow at the west end has a bank outside the ditch. This shows up as a white circle of chalk of which the bank is composed. This chalk bank has been exposed by the plough. There are a number of other barrows north of the road between Stonehenge and Rollestone, and near the Lesser Cursus.

South-west of the Lesser Cursus is a cross-roads. The road southwards leads to some more barrows, mostly east of the road. These include a large bell, north of a square earthwork. To the south is the magnificent Winterbourne Cross-roads group, one of the finest groups in existence. The air-photograph (Plate II) shows the fine long barrow, the long axis of which is in line with two bell-barrows and several of bowl shape. One of these bells is overlapped by a small circular bank rather like a shallow pond-barrow, which is evidently later than the barrow it overlaps. The eastern bell is known as King Barrow, a name given to it by Houre by whom it was opened. It contained a skeleton placed in a coffin made from the trunk of an elm tree. With the skeleton were two knife-daggers, probably of bronze. North of these bell-barrows are two fine discs, one with two tumps on the central platform. The Winterbourne Cross-roads group was called by Thurnam a 'perfect group' because it contained the finest examples of all the main types—long, bowl, bell and disc.

The road eastwards from the Winterbourne Cross-roads leads past the south-west side of Stonehenge, where there are several more barrows, mostly among or near a group of buildings. Of special interest is an oval disc-barrow with two tumps, some 400 yards south-west of Stonehenge, and slightly east of the buildings.

To the east of the double-tumped disc-barrow just mentioned is a track leading south-westwards to Normanton Down, on which is probably the best group of barrows in England, the celebrated Normanton group. North of Normanton Gorse, and some 400 yards north-west of the main group, is the barrow described by Colt Hoare as 'the most beautiful bell-barrow on the plains of Stonehenge'. It is now not so beautifully situated, having a hideous shed near it. There are three barrows in Normanton Gorse, including a disc, but they are not very accessible. East of this wood are two magnifi-



7.—THE NORMANTON GROUP (THE FINEST GROUP OF BARROWS IN WILTSHIRE)

(Scale: 1 inch = 100 yards)

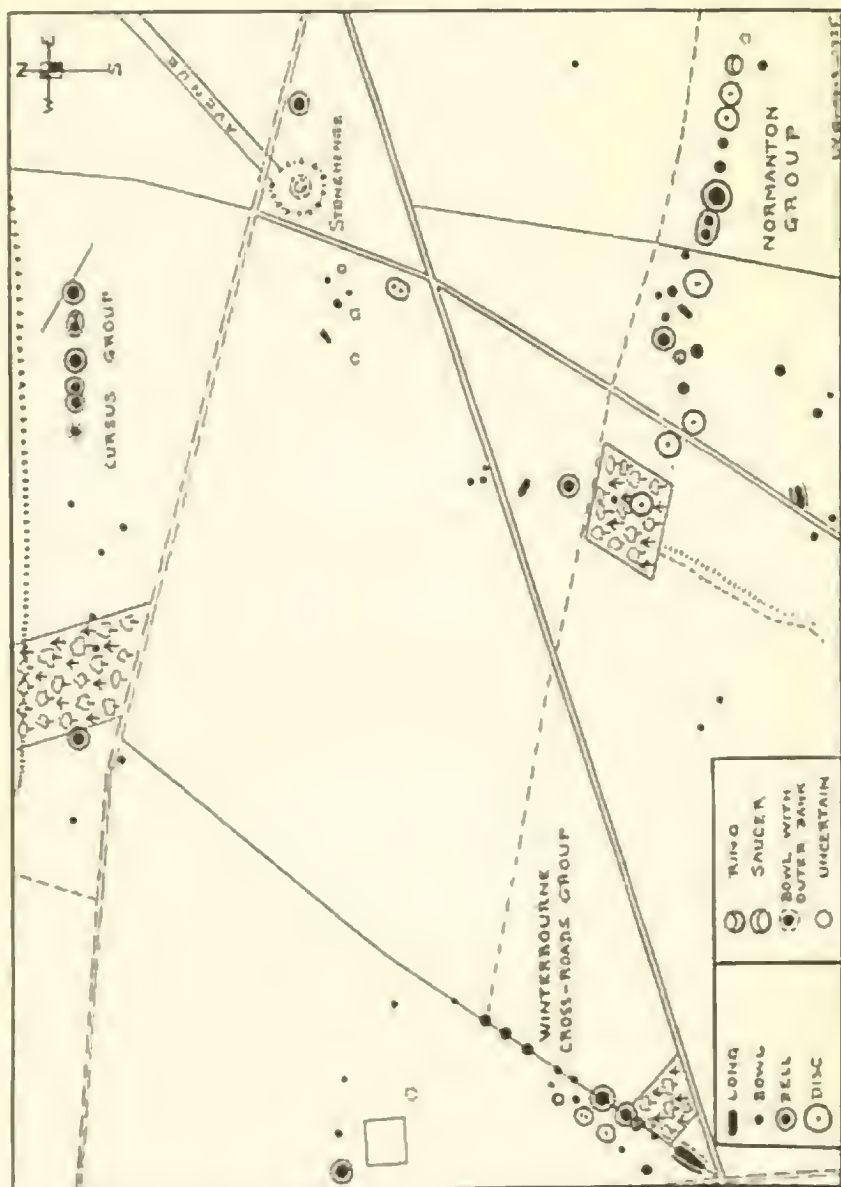
cent disc-barrows, one on each side of the track from Stonehenge. The next example to the east is Bush Barrow, covered with trees. Then follow some large bowls and bells, and a very small long barrow, east of which is another disc. Still farther to the east is a remarkable twin bell-barrow, east of which is an enormous and perfectly formed bell-barrow, one of the finest extant. Farther east are several more bowls and discs. South-west of the main group is an outlier which includes a long barrow by the road from Stonehenge, east of which are some bowls and bells. This wonderful group has to be seen to be believed; for nearly all the examples composing it represent the zenith of barrow-architecture. All are beautiful, imposing and impressive.

Most of them were opened by Colt Hoare, and their contents were as remarkable as their outward appearance. Many of them yielded personal ornaments of gold and amber, as well as the usual array of pottery beakers, incense-cups, cinerary urns and bronze knife-daggers associated with the burials.

Less than a mile farther south-westwards along the track from Stonehenge is the Lake group. Most of the members of this group are in a wood, but there are some fine bell-barrows on the open down, including some which have had their ditches nearly obliterated by the plough. When the writer saw these barrows about 1931, these surrounding ditches could be traced by the abundant growth of wild flowers on them. These flowers were not growing elsewhere. The barrows referred to are those on the open down in the southern angle of the wood. One very large barrow in the wood is known as Prophet's Barrow, from a tradition that about 1710 some French prophets preached to an enthusiastic multitude from this mound.

A short distance eastwards along the plantation is the Wilsford group, also mostly in a wood. There used to be some fine pond-barrows north of the wood, but these have long been under plough and are now visible only as large dish-shaped depressions in the ground. Among the group are some fine and large bowl-barrows. On Lake Down to the south is another group near some ancient entrenchments.

On Amesbury Down east of the River Avon is a remarkable



8.—THE MOST IMPORTANT FLINTHOES NEAR STONEHENGE.

[Scale: 3.7 ins. to 1 mile]

triple-barrow, intermediate in type between bell and disc. It consists of a long oval bank with a ditch inside, enclosing a long oval platform on which are three mounds arranged in a line. These mounds are larger than those of normal disc-barrows, yet much smaller than those of the normal bell-barrow. Triple-barrows of this type are extremely rare, the only other example known to the writer being on Turner's Hill near Elstead in Surrey. Our brief survey of the barrows in the immediate vicinity of Stonehenge is now completed. It remains to indicate some of the more significant of the outlying groups.

The first group that I commend to my reader is in the vicinity of Tilshead, some 7 or 8 miles north-west of Stonehenge. This group is remarkable for its long barrows, which include that near the Tilshead Old Ditch. The Tilshead Old Ditch long barrow is probably the largest in the country, being no less than 390 feet long. It is flanked on the long sides by a gigantic ditch which conforms to type in not going round the ends of the mound. *This magnificent and impressive long barrow should be seen by all those interested in the early monuments of this country.* Near-by are several other long barrows including Kill Barrow and White Barrow. There are also about a dozen round barrows scattered over the hills between Chitterne Down and Tilshead.

Between Chitterne St. Mary and Upton Lovell are two sites of some importance. The first is the Ashton Valley group of several round barrows including one of bell shape, on the slope of Codford Down and almost in a valley overlooking a tributary of the River Wylye. The other site is the Upton Great Barrow to the west, which is rather disappointing in proportion to its fame in archaeology. It was opened at the beginning of last century by Wm. Cunningham, who found in it a cremation, accompanied by

forty-eight beads, sixteen of which were of green and blue opaque glass, of a long shape, and notched between so as to resemble a string of beads; five were of enamel coal or jet; and the remaining twenty-seven were of red amber; the whole forming a most beautiful necklace, and such as a British female would not in these modern days of good taste and elegance disdain to wear.¹

¹ HOARE, *Ancient Wilts*, I, pp. 76-7.



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THE SILK MFL. GROUP, WILTS

The notched beads referred to are the segmented beads of bluish vitreous paste which are held by eminent Egyptologists to have been either made in Egypt or made under Egyptian influence. They have been found in at least 22 barrows in Wiltshire, and in several other barrows in the southern counties. They are probably between 1600 and 1100 B.C.

Returning eastwards towards Stonehenge, the rambler should note two groups, one on each side of the River Till, north of Winterbourne Stoke. The western group is mostly enclosed in a roughly rectangular earthwork known as the Coniger. This group contains two discs, seven bowls, and one of the rare 'pond-barrows'. Both disc-barrows are encroached on by the Coniger earthwork which is therefore later in date.

The group to the east is known as the Winterbourne Stoke (East) group, and is enclosed in a roughly oval earthwork. It consists of ten examples, all circular and of bowl shape. The central example is much larger than the others. One barrow, near the surrounding entrenchment, approaches the platform variety.

The remaining groups to be described are east of the River Avon.

Between Idmiston and the Pheasant or Hut Inn north of Winterslow are several small groups; that on Idmiston Down includes bells and discs, but the latter are in a very dense plantation and almost impossible to see. The best barrows in this area are two enormous bell-barrows about half a mile north-west of the Pheasant Inn. One of these is reputed to be the largest round barrow in Wiltshire except Silbury Hill. This example is visible from the Pheasant Inn and is near the road leading from the inn northwards. A striking feature is the enormously wide berm or platform between the mound and the ditch. As at the Lake group, the ditch around this barrow is indicated by weeds growing over it. The actual ditch has been ploughed away, but the richer soil therein is evidently conducive to the growth of certain kinds of weed which form a ring round the mound at a distance of about 12 yards. This and the barrow near the plantation to the west are known as the Winterslow Colossal Barrows.

About 4 miles north-east of Amesbury is the Silk Hill group, of which a remarkably good air-photograph is shown in Plate XII. The group consists of about 22 examples, all circular. Among them are three discs, one ring and one bell; the remainder are bowls, with the exception of a very large circular earthwork of most unusual form. It consists of a very large mound surrounded by a bank with an outer ditch, the overall diameter being about 70 yards. It may be a barrow of a type so far as is known unique, or it may be a sacred circle intended for worship rather than for burial. Colt Hoare opened it but found no burial and was inclined to doubt whether it was a barrow. In one of the other barrows in this group Hoare found a flint strike-a-light and a piece of iron pyrites.

Three miles north of Tidworth is another fine group on Snail Down. This comprises about thirty examples, most of which are bowls. Other types include four bells, two discs (one with two tumps) and two very rare twin-barrows, each consisting of a large and a small mound enclosed in the same ditch. A large bowl-barrow among this group yielded a remarkable interment thus described by Colt Hoare:

. . . The body of the deceased had been burned, and the bones and ashes piled up in a small heap, which was surrounded by a circular wreath of horns of the red deer, within which, and amidst the ashes, were five beautiful arrow-heads cut out of flint, and a small red pebble. . . . Thus we most clearly see the profession of the Briton here interred. In the flint arrow-heads we recognize his fatal implements of destruction; in the stag's horns we see the victims of his skill as a hunter; and the bones of the dog deposited in the same grave, and above those of his master, commemorate his faithful attendant in the chase, and perhaps his unfortunate victim in death.

On Cow Down to the south-east is another group, near and in Barrow Plantation. Barrows of long, bowl, bell and disc types are scattered here and there over the downs to the south-west of these groups.

Three miles west of Snail Down is the Everleigh twin-barrow, one of the finest twin-barrows on Salisbury Plain. On Longstreet Down to the north-east are two more barrows, one of which is a fine bell. On West Everleigh Down north



A BELL-BARROW AMONG THE SNAIL DOWN GROUP,
WILTS



THE EVERLEIGH TWIN-BARROWS, WILTS



of the metalled road are two magnificent bells and a disc. On Milton Hill a long mile to the north-east is a double-tumped oval disc-barrow near a triple-barrow. The latter resembles the Overton Hill example, described in the next chapter, in being composed of two bell-barrow with a bowl-barrow placed between them; in each case this bowl-barrow may have been added after the bell-barrow were erected.

Thus we bring to an end our review of this dazzling array of barrows of all types, in their most perfect and highly developed forms, on Salisbury Plain. The Plain is nothing more nor less than an open-air museum of barrows—a great necropolis of prehistoric times. Let the reader explore the plain for himself, and enjoy its rolling and bracing downs and springy turf, and he will find that as for its wealth in prehistoric earthworks, the half has not been told in this brief chapter.

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MAPS :

- 6-inch O.S. Maps, Wiltshire. Sheets 53, 54, 55 NW, and 60 NW, are among the more important.
- 1-inch O.S. Popular Edition. Sheet 122.
- O.S. Map of Neolithic Wessex.

2-inch O.S. Map of War Department Land on Salisbury Plain (this map is of great archaeological value, although heavily overprinted with War Office data).

O.S. Maps of Celtic Earthworks on Salisbury Plain. (Only one of the six proposed sheets has so far been published, and this covers the Old Sarum area. The scale is about 2½ inches to the mile.)

MUSEUM:

The Museum of the the Wiltshire Archaeological Society at Devizes, contains a fine collection of grave-goods, found in the Wiltshire barrows by Hoare, the Cunningtons, and others.

CHAPTER VII

AVEBURY AND THE MARLBOROUGH DOWNS

Avebury doth as much exceed Stonehenge in grandeur as a Cathedral doth an ordinary Parish Church.

JOHN AUBREY (1626-97)

With awe and diffidence, I enter the sacred precincts of this once hallowed sanctuary, the supposed parent of Stonehenge, the wonder of Britain, and the most ancient, as well as the most interesting relict which our island can produce.

SIR R. C. HOARE, *Ancient Wiltshire*, vol. II, p. 57

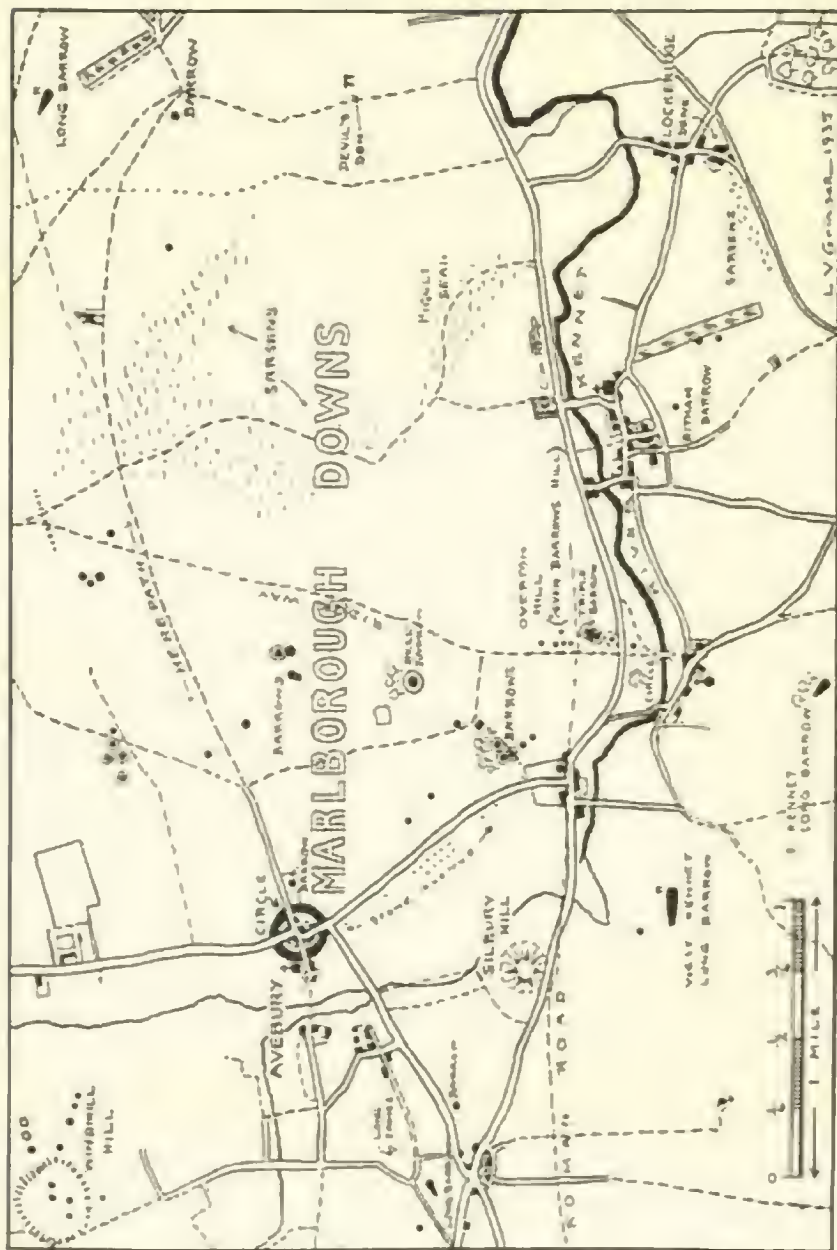
WE now come to a ramble over a delightful stretch of chalk downs through which the River Kennet flows, and along its course are a number of peaceful unspoilt Wiltshire villages. Into this paradise of prehistory no railway has yet been suffered to enter. The centre of the region is Avebury, which is best reached on a fine day by foot over the downs from Marlborough, Devizes, Swindon, or Pewsey, from each of which towns it is distant between six and nine miles. It may also be reached by occasional buses from Marlborough, Swindon, Calne or Devizes. The present writer prefers to approach Avebury from the clean, interesting and ancient town of Marlborough which provides well for the traveller.

It is not the purpose of this chapter to give a detailed account of the great stone circle at Avebury, which was in prehistoric times probably far more important than Stonehenge. It is enough to say that the monument originally consisted of an outer circle enclosing two inner circles placed side by side, as shown on the plan. It is not certain whether these inner circles were double or single, but they were probably double. The great circle is surrounded by a gigantic ditch and bank. At the south-east is a causeway from which a stone avenue known as the Kennet Avenue runs towards Overton Hill where it ends in the remains of a

stone circle known as the Sanctuary. The site of this stone circle was formerly occupied by a timber circle. This circle and many other megaliths near Avebury were destroyed about 1724 by one Farmer Green for the sake of 'a little dirty profit' as Stukeley observed. The Sanctuary has recently been excavated and partly restored by Mrs. Cunningham. Farmer Green was probably one of many offenders. In the words of Lord Avebury, 'the pretty little village of Abury, like some beautiful parasite, has grown up at the expense, and in the midst, of the ancient temple, and out of 650 great stones, not above 20 are still standing'. The stones at Avebury are all single standing stones or monoliths, and are much rougher in shape than the stones of Stonehenge. The stones of the Kennet Avenue are still in their original positions at one or two points, and Messrs. Keiller and Piggott are now (1934-6) discovering the post-holes of some of the other stones, as well as some of the stones themselves, which are being replaced in their original positions. Good lodging at Avebury may be obtained at Perry's Private Hotel or the Red Lion Inn.

The next site in order of importance in the vicinity is Silbury Hill, which is the largest artificial mound in Europe, being no less than 125 feet high and covering an area of $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres. The flat top of this hill is 100 feet in diameter and is big enough for Stonehenge to be placed thereon. The nature of Silbury Hill is uncertain. It is undoubtedly artificial; this has been proved by excavation. It may be a barrow, and this view seems to hold the field at the moment, although in shape it is quite different from the normal barrow, being much more conical. A Roman road makes a slight bend as it goes past Silbury Hill, proving that Silbury is earlier than the Roman road.

Stukeley's conjecture that Silbury is the burial-place of a king has only the pleasure of conception to recommend it. It has been said to be traditionally the burial-place of (1) a man in golden armour on horseback, or (2) a king in a golden coffin. Another tradition is that the Devil wanted to smother up Avebury with a shovelful of earth; 'but the priests saw him coming and set to work with their charms and incantations, and they fixed him while he was yet a nice way off,



9.—THE MOST IMPORTANT PREHISTORIC MONUMENTS ON THE MARLBOROUGH DOWNS

till at last he flings down his shovelful just where he was stood. And THAT'S Silbury'.¹

Between Avebury and Beekhampton are two stones known as the Long Stones, Adam and Eve, or the Devil's Coits, north of the road. South-west of these is a mutilated long barrow. There is a very fine group of barrows between here and North Down near the Wansdyke to the south-west. They include long barrows, and those of bowl, bell, and disc type, as well as one of the finest so-called pond-barrows in existence. There is also in this group a barrow intermediate in type between bell and disc.

From Morgan's Hill eastwards for several miles towards Savernake Forest is the bold entrenchment known as Wansdyke, along and near the course of which are several barrows. Among the more noteworthy is Adam's Grave, a conspicuous long barrow south of Wansdyke and near Alton Priors. Near Huish to the east is a group south of Gopher Wood. South of West Kennet is the West Kennet chambered long barrow, one of the longest in existence. At the eastern end a number of large sarsen stones may be observed. Those standing in a vertical position around the edge of the mound are the remains of a peristalith which originally enclosed the barrow. The larger recumbent slabs on the mound cover a passage leading to a burial-chamber. There is a fine tree-covered long barrow south of East Kennet: sarsens protruding at the south-eastern end may indicate the existence of a passage with burial-chambers beneath the mound.

North-west of Avebury is a group of round barrows in and near the neolithic camp on Windmill Hill. There used to be a fine chambered long barrow known as Mill Barrow near Winterbourne Monkton to the east, but this is now destroyed.

Some of the finest bell-barrows near Avebury are to be seen on Overton Hill, near the Ridgeway north of the Bath Road. The so-called triple-barrow immediately north of the road, shown on the air-photograph (Plate XV), is really two bell-barrows with one of bowl shape between them. The finest bell-barrow in this region is the very large one, covered with trees, nearly a mile north of the Bath Road and a short distance west of the Ridgeway. Early in the eighteenth

¹ *Folk-lore*, vol. 24, p. 324.



SILBURY HILL, THE LARGEST ARTIFICIAL MOUND IN EUROPE

Note the people standing on the top



century, some ancient human bones were dug up on Overton Hill, and out of them Dr. Toope of Marlborough made 'a noble medicine, that relieved many of my distressed neighbours'.

The downs between Avebury and Marlborough are strewn with greywethers or sarsen-stones. Concerning these it is fitting to quote Stukeley :

the whole country, hereabouts, is a solid body of chalk, covered with a most delicate turf. As this chalk matter hardened at creation, it spew'd out the most solid body of the stones, of greater specific gravity than itself; and assisted by the centrifuge power, owing to the rotation of the globe upon its axis, threw them upon its surface, where they now lie.

These sarsen-stones are now considered to be the remains of a capping of sandstone which formerly covered the chalk downs of north Wiltshire. Many of these stones were used by pre-historic man to build Avebury and the stonework in the long barrows. Nearly all the long barrows in north Wiltshire are chambered, suitable local stone being abundant. At dusk these stones impart a delightfully eerie atmosphere to the downs. They seem to speak of a forgotten civilization.

The best groups of sarsens are on Overton and Fyfield Downs north of the Bath Road. There are also some fine groups at Piggie Dene west of Fyfield, and Lockeridge Dene to the south. From White Hill near Lockeridge Dene a grand view of Silbury Hill and the River Kennet may be obtained.

On Manton Down north of Manton House, is a small chambered long barrow with a well-preserved burial-chamber at the eastern end. A mile to the south is a celebrated stone structure known as the Devil's Den, on a hill-slope overlooking Clatford Bottom. This is considered to be the remains of a long barrow, of which it is either the entrance or a burial-chamber. On Marlborough Common is a group of round barrows near and on the golf-course. There are some more near Rockley between Marlborough and Broad Hinton, and also on Hackpen Hill which stretches from a short distance north-east of Avebury to Barbury Castle which is probably an Early Iron Age camp.

At the point where the metalled road from Marlborough

to Broad Hinton descends Hackpen Hill, is a White Horse cut in the turf of the hillslope. There is another, considered to be recent, (? cut in 1804) on the hill south of Marlborough College. In the grounds of Marlborough College is a conical tree-covered mound like Silbury Hill but not so big. It has been known as Merlin's Barrow, and is thought to be Maerl's barrow from which Marlborough took its name. Its date and original purpose are unknown.

Summing up this review of barrows around Avebury, we are impressed by two important facts: the abundance of chambered long barrows, and the scarcity of disc-barrows; in other words, the abundance of barrows of early type, and the scarcity of the disc-barrows which appear to be of the latest type. There is little doubt that the civilization represented by the stone circles and barrows in the Avebury district is earlier than that of the Stonehenge district.

In this brief chapter we have glanced only at the more important sites in this beautiful and archaeologically prolific piece of country. Many of the less important sites are marked on the accompanying map; but it is possible that few of my readers will be able to traverse these downs without finding fresh footprints of our prehistoric past at almost every visit; for the rambler who goes to the Marlborough Downs once is likely to repeat his visit many times.

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*Specially recommended.



THE GOPHER WOOD GROUP, WILTS. FROM THE AIR



"THE SANCTUARY" AND HARBOWS ON OVERTON HILL, WILTS.
FROM THE AIR



MAPS :

O.S. Map of Neolithic Wessex.

O.S., 1-inch Popular Edition. Sheet 112.

6-inch O.S. Wiltshire, 28 NW., NE., SW. and SE. (Marlborough Downs). 27 SE. (The North Down group).

CHAPTER VIII

WAYLAND'S SMITHY AND THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS

‘But enough of that—here are we at Wayland Smith’s forge-door.’

‘You jest, my little friend,’ said Tressilian; ‘there is nothing but a bare moor, and that ring of stones, with a great one in the midst, like a Cornish harrow.’

‘Ay, and that great flat stone in the midst, which lies across the top of these uprights,’ said the boy, ‘is Wayland Smith’s counter, that you must tell down your money upon.’

SCOTT, *Kenilworth*, chapter 10

THE Berkshire Downs are situated some ten or twelve miles north-east of the Marlborough Downs described in the last chapter. The literary and historical associations of the region covered by this chapter are numerous and important. The downs near Uffington formed the setting for the first two chapters of *Tom Bracken’s Schooldays* and for all of *The Scouring of the White Horse* by the same writer (Thomas Hughes), a memorial brass to whom is in Uffington Church. The legend of Wayland the Smith is woven into *Kenilworth* by Sir Walter Scott. The White Horse Vale is the subject of G. K. Chesterton’s *Ballad of the White Horse*.

The whole region has many associations with King Alfred who was born at Wantage and whose statue adorns the market-place of that town. The site of the Battle of Ashdown, in which Alfred was joint victor against the Danes, was somewhere on the Berkshire Downs. With such historical, literary, and romantic associations, this region cannot fail to be of absorbing interest. This chapter will be confined to an account of the country between Ashbury and Kingston Lisle, extending to the south as far as the Lambourn Downs.



WAYLAND'S SMITHY, DEERS



The district under consideration contains material for several days if not weeks of rambling. The Rambler is recommended to walk from west to east if he goes along the Ridgeway which runs through the whole area, because the wind is generally westerly and it is best for the walker to have the wind behind him.

Some of the old-world villages hereabouts have excellent inns; those at Ashbury (The Rose and Crown), Woolstone (The White Horse) and Kingston Lisle (The Plough) are under the control of the Peoples' Refreshment House Association and can all be recommended.

Ashbury is a good starting-point for a wonderful walk. After lunching at the Rose and Crown, the Rambler should climb the hill to the south until he comes to the hilltop track known as the Ridgeway, or in the vernacular 'The Rudge'. A walk of nearly a mile to the east along this Ridgeway leads to a clump of trees, beneath which is the celebrated Wayland's Smithy, or Wayland Smith's Cave. It consists of a rather low mound, at present of an oval shape but probably originally rectangular. At the south-east end of this mound is a heap of stones, most of which look, as Aubrey said in the seventeenth century, as if they had been 'tumbled out of a cart'. A closer inspection of the stones shows quite clearly that most of them are standing upright and are arranged in the form of a cross. The long arm of the cross is really a long passage which leads to the remains of three burial-chambers forming the three shorter arms of the cross. Some skeletons were found in the burial-chambers in 1919. The monument is therefore a long barrow of the 'true passage-grave' type, with an entrance and passage leading to burial-chambers. One of the burial-chambers has the capstone still in place. There is a very old tradition that if a groat were placed on this slab and a horse left to be shod, an invisible blacksmith would shoe the horse and take the groat. This blacksmith was Wayland the Smith. The legend is an early Germanic one. Some iron currency-bars of the Celtic period were found near the capstone already mentioned, in 1919.

There are several other traditions associated with Wayland's Smithy. A golden coffin is said to be buried near-by, and a tradition has been recorded of an underground passage leading

from the cave (the local name for the burial-chamber with the capstone) to a spot near Ashbury. A mile north of Ashbury is a spot called Snivelling Corner. It is said that in days gone by, Wayland the Smith wanted some nails, so he sent his favourite imp, Flibbertigibbet, to the village of Ashbury to get the nails. Instead of coming straight back Flibbertigibbet went birds' nesting with some of the villagers. After an impatient wait, Wayland saw his imp birds' nesting and in his anger threw a stone boulder at him. On this boulder, still to be seen at Snivelling Corner, is supposed to be the mark of the heel of Flibbertigibbet where the stone hit him, causing him to go away from the corner snivelling—hence Snivelling Corner.

Before leaving what has been described as the most famous of all long burrows, the reader is recommended to examine the inner surfaces of the stones of the passage and burial-chambers. As Mr. A. D. Passmore has pointed out, the inner surfaces of some of these stones seem to be smoother than the outer surfaces—a remark that may apply to some other long barrows. Dr. Oscar Montelius, a famous Scandinavian antiquary, wrote that the inner surfaces of the stones of chambered barrows in Scandinavia tend to be smoother than the outer surfaces.

The walker should now continue going along the 'Rudge' eastwards towards the fine Early Iron Age Camp known as Uffington Castle. About a mile south of the castle, and visible on the right of the walker, is a hump on the skyline. This is 'Idlebush Barrow' or 'Idle Tump', which will be more fully described later. The fine entrance on the west side of Uffington Castle is worth seeing. Just below it on the north is the White Horse—the most famous and perhaps the earliest of all White Horses, and the one that was the subject of a number of 'scourings' from time immemorial until 1857. The 1857 scouring is graphically described in Thomas Hughes' fine book *The Scouring of the White Horse* which also refers to some of the earlier scourings. The largecombe or valley beneath the horse is known as the Horse's Manger.

It is considered lucky to wish when standing in the horse's eye, and a wish made in this position is supposed to come true. The White Horse is considered to be about 200 B.C.,



10.—THE MOST IMPORTANT ANTIQUITIES ON THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS

from its resemblance to the conventional drawings of a horse on some early British coins of that period.

East of Uffington Castle are two irregular oval or long mounds, which yielded a large number of skeletons believed to be Roman when opened in the middle of the nineteenth century.

Just below the White Horse is a large flat-topped mound known as 'Dragon's Mount' or 'Dragon Hill'. It is here that St. George, or 'King Jaarge' is supposed to have slain the dragon. The place where the dragon's blood trickled down is marked by a patch of bare chalk where no grass will grow—so poisonous was the blood of the dragon. Dragon Hill was at one time considered to be the burial-place of one Uter Pendragon. It is now believed to be a natural knoll.

A walk of another half-mile eastwards along the 'Rudge' brings us to a ploughed field on the right or south of the rudge. In this field may still be clearly seen the remains of a hilltop camp, which was probably originally similar to that at Uffington. The Saxon land charters mention one or two barrows south of Rams Hill, but these I have not yet been able to locate. Here's work for an enthusiast!

A walk of another half-mile along the Ridgeway leads to Blowingstone Hill and a metalled road leading off the downs northwards into the Vale. On the right or east of this road, and just south of its juncture with the Icknield Way, is the celebrated Blowing Stone, otherwise known as King Alfred's Bugle-horn from the tradition that he blew through it to summon the Saxons when he wanted to fight the Danes. Originally the Blowing Stone was on top of the hill—whether White Horse Hill or Blowing Stone Hill does not appear to be known. By paying a small fee, most of which goes to charity, the rambler may obtain the key to the stone from the cottage (which is the remains of the Blowing Stone public house). The caretaker then unlocks the wooden lid over the hole in the stone, and the walker is invited to blow through it. After a few unsuccessful tries the novice can soon acquire the knack of making a loud report emanate from the hole in the stone. The noise is said to be heard for a distance of three miles; and when the stone was on top of the hill the noise would have carried much farther. The hole

in the stone is one of several which are natural and are frequently found in sandstone blocks of this kind. They occur in some of the stones forming Wayland's Smithy. Postcard-photographs of the Blowing Stone and also of the White Horse are obtainable from the cottage by the Blowing Stone.

A walk of another half-mile northwards, past the beautiful grounds of Kingston Lisle House, turning to the right by the church, leads to 'The Plough', where excellent meals may be obtained in pleasant surroundings. A few hundred yards north of 'The Plough', and east of the road, is a large conical mound covered with trees. This is a round barrow of bowl-shape. Some authorities have thought it to be Roman, and Fawler, near where it is situated, is derived from *Fugiflora*, Latin for a variegated floor or tessellated pavement.

It remains to describe a few sites south of the main ridge-way. There are a number of hill-spurs running southwards, along which are tracks which are at right-angles to the ridge-way. The most westerly of these, in the region under review, is the continuation of Idstone Borstall, which leads towards the gorgeous woods of Ashdown Park and to Alfred's Castle and some barrows near it. Alfred's Castle is a small but very impressive camp, and in the rabbit-scrapes hereabouts are many potsherds and humanly chipped flint flakes. Anhrey described the castle as having been badly mutilated through too much digging of 'the sarsden stones to build my Lord Craven's House'. North of Alfred's Castle is a possible barrow, oval in shape, rather mutilated. South of Swinley Copse, half a mile south-west of the castle, are two more barrows. But the best ones are a short distance farther south, on Idstone Down, known as 'The Three Barrows'. These are three well-formed bowl-barrows in a good state of preservation. On the downs and especially in the valleys or coombes near here are a very large number of sarsen-stones. It was probably from these that the stones were selected for building Wayland's Smithy.

South of Uffington Castle is another spur, with a hilltop track running southwards. West of the track, about a mile south of Uffington Castle, is the tump known as Idlebush Barrow. It may have been so named because, about 1800,

some trees were planted on it which would not grow on account of the bleak situation. A few yards south of Idle-bush Barrow is a small but well-formed disc-barrow.

The metalled road on Blowingstone Hill leads southwards towards the Lambourn Seven Barrows, which are situated two and a half miles south of the ridgeway on Blowingstone Hill. The Seven Barrows on Lambourn Downs are the best group in Berkshire. They really consist of more than twenty examples, all of which are circular. They are all probably of the Bronze Age. The group are well seen in the beautiful air-photograph taken by Major Allen (Plate XVII).

In the foreground of the photograph is a bell-barrow, rather distorted in the photo. North of this is a tiny ring-barrow or saucer-barrow, and north of this but still south of the road are two bowl-barrows and a possible bell-barrow in the centre. The narrow ring round it is the remains of a trench and bank thrown up about a century ago when the mound was planted with trees.

North of the road are the best barrows. They are arranged in two rows. The top row includes, from left to right, a large disc- or saucer-barrow, a bowl-barrow, another bowl-barrow with a tiny one adjoining on the south, a twin-barrow with the mounds overlapping, and another bowl-barrow. The lower row consists of a fine twin, a bowl-barrow, another bowl-barrow surrounded by a tree-planting earthenbank, and a very fine disc. Some of these barrows were opened about 1850 by Rev. John Wilson and Mr. E. Martin Atkins of Kingston Lisle, and the finds, which include some very large urns, are now in the British Museum. Unfortunately, Wilson and Atkins did not keep an accurate record of what they found in each barrow, and so it might have been better if their excavations had never been undertaken. Still they were interested in antiquities and did some good work. Atkins was a prominent member of the committee for the Scouring of the White Horse in 1857, and undertook a good deal of excavations in the neighbourhood, some of which were done more thoroughly and were better recorded than those among the Seven Barrows. He lived at Kingston Lisle House, and died in 1859. In Kingston Lisle Church is a stained glass window in his memory.



'THE SEVEN BARROWS', LAUROUIN, HERKS



This chapter may fittingly conclude with a quotation of part of a poem on White Horse Hill written by Job Cork, a shepherd who spent most or all of his life in the neighbourhood.

. . . ' Ah Zur, I can remember well
The stories the old voke do tell—
Upon this hill which here is seen
Many a battle there have been.

' If it is true as I heard zay
King Gauge did here the dragon slay,
And down below on yonder hill
They buried him as I heard tell.

' If you along the Rudgeway go
About a mile for aught I know
There Wayland's Cave then you may see
Surrounded by a clump of trees. . . '

Addendum.

Since this chapter was written, the writer has had the good fortune to discover a chambered long barrow slightly north-west of the Lambourn Seven Barrows. The site has been inserted on the map accompanying this chapter. The barrow is at the southern end of the wood about 300 yards north of Seven Barrows Farm.

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MAPS :

1-inch O.S. Popular Edition. Sheet 104.

6-inch O.S. Berkshire. Sheets 13 SW. and SE. (White Horse Hill).

10 NW. (Wayland's Smithy) and NE.

10 SW. ; 10 SE. (Lambourn Seven Bar-
rows).

20 NW. and NE.

CHAPTER IX

THE NEW FOREST

It was seen in Chapter V that there is an important concentration of long barrows on Cranborne Chase, notably between Woodyates and Tollard Royal, and especially near the Gussages. These long barrows are on a range of chalk downs west of the Avon. The region we have now to review is east of the Avon, and is totally devoid of any long barrows although it contains about 150 of the round type. It appears that the New Forest, which is on sandy soil, was not inhabited to any extent, if at all, in the Neolithic period, probably partly on account of the scarcity of native flint for making implements.

The New Forest, as all who know it are aware, is a region of infinite beauty at all seasons of the year, especially in spring and autumn. Most of the ancient barrows are in the south-eastern part of the forest, between Brockenhurst and Beaulieu, and this part of the forest also contains some of the best beauty spots; the region around Beaulieu will therefore be selected for study in this chapter.

The cheerful-looking old-world town of Brockenhurst is an excellent starting-point for a New Forest Ramble, and contains some good hotels and cafés.

Rather more than a mile south of Brockenhurst is Setley Plain, on which are some of the most interesting barrows in the forest. They include four examples which are intermediate in type between bell and disc. Two of these are in the form of a twin, with the outer banks and ditches overlapping. On the hill to the south-east of the twin is a single barrow of the same type, and south of the road from Burley to Boldre is another, not far from the New Inn. On Sway Common west of the railway-line is a group of barrows, including a very large, high and impressive bell-barrow; this is the finest bell-barrow in the forest.

The Setley Plain barrows were opened many years ago rather unscientifically, when they appear to have yielded evidence of cremation, which is almost invariably found in barrows of this kind. One of the small barrows on Sway Common yielded a Bronze Age urn inverted over burnt human bones.

Nearly two miles to the south-east is Buckland Rings, the finest camp in the New Forest. It probably belongs to the Early Iron Age.

Although the rarest types of barrow are in the Setley Plain area, the largest groups of forest barrows are on Beaulieu



11.—A BARROW, INTERMEDIATE BETWEEN BELL AND DISC TYPES, EAST OF BEAULIEU HILL TOP

~ Mound.	~ ~ Berm.
~ ~ Ditch.	~ ~ Outer bank.

Heath. Beaulieu Heath is divided into two parts, south-west and north-east.

The south-west part of Beaulieu Heath may be reached along a metalled road from Brockenhurst, or else along some much smaller secondary roads through Boldre and Pilley Bailey. The latter is the preferable route for the rambler. The track from Pilley Bailey northwards over the western fringe of the heath passes near several large round barrows, some of which, having flattish tops, approach the platform type but are not well-marked examples thereof. Some of them are covered with bracken or trees. Among the more notable is Pudding Barrow on the extreme north-west corner

of the heath. There are also some good ones between Pudding Barrow and Hatchet Pond, and there are two more examples immediately south of the metalled road to the north, leading to Hatchet Gate.

Hatchet Pond is of singular beauty. It is supposed to be on the site of a group of old marl-pits which have become filled with water and united into one pond. Near-by is an old house known as Hatchet Mill, part of which is used as a good café. There are a few large bowl-barrows south of Hatchet Pond and east of the road to Lymington.

The road eastwards from Hatchet Gate leads to Beaulieu about a mile distant, with the ruins of its famous abbey which was founded by King John. The name Beaulieu testifies to the great beauty of the spot especially near the Beaulieu River. The Montagu Arms at Beaulieu is a very high-class hotel.

A mile to the north-east is the Hill Top, where begins Beaulieu Hill Top Heath, on which is a good sprinkling of barrows. There are two very fine bell-disc intermediate types close together immediately south of the road to Fawley. One or two prominent apparent barrows to the north are either rifle-butts or else barrows converted into them. There is a good group of bowl-barrows, with one possible bell among them, near Stonyford Pond; there are one or two old rifle-butts in the vicinity as well. Among the most famous New Forest tumuli are those which stand out conspicuously to the west of the road between Beaulieu Hill Top and Dibden Purlieu. This group comprises a central twin-barrow consisting of two confluent round barrows, on each side of which is a large round barrow approaching the bell shape. The ditches of these barrows are remarkably well-preserved.

On the eastern fringe of Hill Top Heath is a long straight entrenchment, on the eastern side of which are no less than seven or eight barrows, one of which appears to be a tiny bell. The others are all bowls.

Among the delightful walks in the Beaulieu area is that from Ladycross House near Pudding Barrow northwards through Denny Lodge woods and Denny Lodge to Matley Passage and Beaulieu Road Station, between which places are several round barrows. Refreshments may be obtained

at the Beaulieu Road Hotel by the station. It is worth mention that the railway line between Southampton and Lymington twists and turns through the forest to avoid spoiling the beauty-spots. This course was followed largely through the influence of one Castleman, a director of the railway with a great love of the forest, and the line used to be known as Castleman's corkscrew. A mile north of Beaulieu Road station is the charming Beaulieu River.

Let us conclude this chapter with a delightful quotation from Wise's book on the New Forest :

The best advice which I can give to see the Forest is to follow the course of one of its streams, and make it your friend and companion, and go wherever it goes. It will be sure to take you through the greenest valleys, and past the thickest woods, and under the largest trees. No step along with it is ever lost, for it never goes out of its way but in search of some fresh beauty.¹

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O.S. : 1-inch *Popular Edition*, Sheets 131 and 132.

*O.S. : 1-inch *Tourist Map of the New Forest*,
O.S. : 6-inch *Hants*, 73 SW. (Hill Top Heath), 80 NW. (Setley Plain), 80 NE. (Hatchet Pond area) and 80 SW. (Shirley Holms).

*Specially recommended.

†Specially recommended, but scarce and expensive.

¹ J. R. Wise : *The New Forest*, chapter 2.

CHAPTER X

BOW HILL, AND THE WEST SUSSEX DOWNS

Humanity was thick enough here in an earlier day—the humanity which tunnelled for flint in the chalk of Stoke Down, and drew the long lines of ‘covered ways’ across Bow Hill, and built the camp upon the ridge, and piled up the great barrows on the brow, where (so the tale goes) lie certain kings that fell in battle hereabout in 900.—A. H. ALLCROFT, *Downland Pathways*, 2nd Edition, p. 271

ON the west of the road between Chichester and Midhurst is a bold range of rugged and rolling downs, which is among the finest stretches of chalk downs in existence. It is speckled with hawthorns and tufts of gorse, and scarred with the footprints of our ancestors, in the form of harrows, flint-mines, entrenchments, and other vestiges.

The best centre for exploring these downs is Chichester, but Midhurst is nearly as good. A number of delightful old-world Sussex villages are scattered between Midhurst and Chichester, and any of these villages is also a good centre for exploring these hills. Among the prettiest of these villages is Singleton with its thatched cottages and with the Lavant stream running through the street by the roadside. It was while staying at Singleton that William Cobbett wrote: ‘. . . as to these villages in the South Downs, they are beautiful to behold. . . . The houses are good and warm; and the gardens some of the very best that I have seen in England’. The Chichester–Midhurst road is well served by Southdown buses, and the best point to alight for Bow Hill is Binderton House just north of Lavant. An alternative way is to walk or go by bus from Chichester to East Ashling and walk due northwards to West Stoke and Stoke Down (east).

West of Stoke Clump is a ditched bowl-barrow near an

entrenchment, north of which are the shafts of flint-mines of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. These flint-mines are similar to the better-known ones at Cissbury, Sussex, and Brandon, Norfolk. On the western slope of this hill is another earthwork, and on the western spur of Stoke Down is a group of small bowl-barrows, which revealed a probable Saxon date when opened in the nineteenth century. There is reason to believe that at one time this group of small grave-mounds was much more extensive than at present.

On the north-east of this spur of Stoke Down is Kingley Vale, containing its celebrated grove of yew trees. On Bow Hill, beyond, are the four enormous barrows, consisting of two bowls and two bells, known as the Devil's Humps. These have been opened and belong to the Early Bronze Age, about 1500 B.C. Between the mounds are a series of three or four little pits, each enclosed in a circular bank or lip of earth. These appear to be contemporary with the barrows.

South-west of the four barrows is a fine entrenchment consisting of a ditch and bank, and another earthwork exists on the hill-slope to the north-west. The narrow bank running the whole length of the barrows but a few yards to the north-west is comparatively modern.

Nearly a mile to the west of the Four Barrows, on the western spur of Bow Hill, and slightly on the northern slope thereof, is a very fine twin bell-barrow, consisting of two large mounds placed on a platform enclosed in an oval ditch. Twin-barrows are a great rarity outside of Salisbury Plain, and represent the zenith of barrow-architecture. The discovery of rare barrow-types such as this example, which was first recognized as such by the writer, gives a great thrill to barrow-hunting.

A few hundred yards to the north of the Devil's Humps are some earthworks of various kinds, beyond which are two small long barrows on Stoughton Down. Between them is a possible round barrow which is not marked on the Ordnance Maps. On Lambleton Hill to the west are four more small bowl-barrows which are not marked on the maps.

A descent of Lambleton Hill on the north-west side brings the ramble to a track, and if he continues walking north-west, past Wildham Barn, he will come to East Marden, and

in another half-mile he will reach Long Lane. A walk of a mile westwards along Long Lane brings the Rambler to Telegraph Hill, and on the south of the road is a very fine long barrow, discovered by the writer, known as Solomon's or Baverse's Thumb. A walk along Telegraph Hill through a delightful wood leads to Compton, where the Rambler may be able to get one of the rather infrequent buses back to Chichester.

Another invigorating walk in this part of the downs is along the Ridgeway east and west of the Cocking Gap. This may easily be approached by bus from Midhurst, Chichester or Singleton.

A walk westwards from Cocking Gap leads over Cocking Downs, on which is a platform-shaped barrow, towards Linch Down, on the western slope of which is a barrow not marked on the maps. West of Linch Down is Didling Hill, where is a round barrow enclosed in a square earthwork of unusual type. A track to the south-west leads to Monkton Down, and slightly north-west of Monkton House is the finest group of tumuli in Sussex—'The Devil's Jumps'. These consist of six enormous bell-barrows arranged in a line. That at the south-east is nearly destroyed, but the others are in fairly good condition though they are rather covered by trees. It is unfortunate that this fine group is obscured by thick woods.

On the west may be seen an entrenchment mounting Pen Hill towards Beacon Hill on which is a camp around which may be found quantities of ancient pottery, probably like the camp of Early Iron Age date.

The track from Cocking Gap eastwards leads over Manor-farm down to Heyshott Downs, where the track is bordered on the south by woods. On the eastern part of Heyshott Downs is a fine group of about ten bowl-shaped barrows, one of which is much larger than the others. Some of the smaller ones have had their tops removed and must not be mistaken for ring-barrows. Farther eastwards is Graffham Down, where are a few barrows including two large ones placed close together. A track south-eastwards from Graffham Down through Tegleaze woods leads to Waltham Down, where is a group of five large round barrows—four bowls

and one bell. The ramhler is not advised to look for the Waltham Down group unless he is armed with a 6-inch O.S. map, as they are not very easy to locate with a map on a smaller scale. On Heyshott and Graffham Downs, near the barrows are a number of entrenchments or 'covered ways' running from north to south over the downs.

It remains to add a little general information about this area. Richard Cobden, the eminent Free-Trade statesman, was born at Heyshott, and Cardinal Manning in his early manhood held a curacy hereabouts. East of Bow Hill and south of Heyshott Downs is glorious Goodwood, and the fine Early Iron Age hill-fort known as the Trundle, which is placed on an earlier camp of Neolithic times. Aaron's golden calf is said to be buried on this hill. The road on the southern border of the Racecourse is on the site of an early track known as the Harroway.

Good centres for lodging and refreshments in this part of the country are at Midhurst and Chichester. Singleton is the prettiest and among the best centres, and the Drove Hotel in the village is recommended. Refreshments may also be obtained at the inns at Cocking, Compton, Stoughton and elsewhere. The inn at Stoughton is very convenient for Bow Hill.

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A BARROW ON HOW HILL, SUSSEX. DURING EXCAVATION IN
1933



A BARROW ON WINDOVER HILL, SUSSEX



CHAPTER XI

ALFRISTON AND THE EAST SUSSEX DOWNS

On no part of the South Downs is there more exquisite entertainment for the antiquary or more delicious food for the epicure. Those beautiful sepulchral monuments, denominated barrows, or tumuli, with which the downs, in every direction, are more or less graced, are in this district numerous and of various forms and dimensions.

HORSFIELD on Alfriston, in his *History of Lewes*, II, p. 1

THE fine stretch of chalk downs described in this chapter forms one of the most charming regions in Sussex, and that is high praise. Almost in the centre of the downs of East Sussex, nestling between two ranges of rolling downs, divided by the River Cuckmere, is the lovely ancient village of Alfriston, with its early Market Cross, the two old inns (the Market Cross and the Star), the fine church which is known as the Cathedral of the Downs, the Old Clergy House, part of which is open to the public, and many other places of interest and beauty. The Alfriston area has been well said to contain the longest man, the smallest church (Lullington—the remains of a larger edifice) and the oldest inn (The Star) in Sussex. The Wilmington Giant, about two miles east of Alfriston, is the world's largest representation of the human figure.

It is a good plan to start a peregrination from Seaford (pronounced *Seaford*, not *Seaf'rd*), and to walk from there to Alfriston. A road leads from Seaford (near the railway station and bus terminus) past East Blatchington windmill across the golf-course, on to a typical downland ridgeway along which are sprinkled a few tumuli. After passing a few small ones just north of the golf-course, the Rambler should continue walking due northwards along the ridgeway from which grand views are obtainable, and after another half-mile he will come to a large mound with a hollow in the centre, which is the meeting point of barbed-wire fences.

This barrow is called Five Lords' Burgh, because it used to be on the boundary of five parishes. It is still on the boundary of four. A walk of another half-mile northwards leads to two large bowl-barrows close together. On the west of this ridgeway may be seen two very large bowl-barrows placed on top of a hill. These are known as the Lord's Burghs. A walk of another mile, keeping well to the north and taking care not to bear to the right along any of the tributary tracks, leads the Rambler to the top of Firle Beacon. This hill is crowned by a large bowl-barrow, and a short distance to the west is one of the long shape. A silver coffin is supposed to be buried on Firle Hill, and one of the barrows here is said to be the resting-place of the giant of Firle Beacon. Beneath Firle Beacon is the beautiful Firle Park in the grounds of which is Firle Place, the seat of the Gage family. The magnificent alabaster effigy and tomb of Sir John Gage (Constable of the Tower of London, died 1557) is in Firle Church.

From Firle Beacon it is a wonderful walk south-eastwards along a ridgeway overlooking the Weald, for a distance of about three miles, to the village of Alfriston. Along this ridgeway there are no fewer than 45 or 50 tumuli, nearly all round ones, but there are two fine long barrows at the Alfriston end of the track. One of these is on the left of the ridgeway going towards Alfriston, just above Winton Chalk Pit and about three hundred yards north of the track down the hill-slope into the village. The other and larger long barrow is on the right of the same ridgeway and three hundred yards past the previous long barrow, going towards Alfriston. This barrow is about 55 yards long and is flanked by deep ditches, as is usual with long barrows on the chalk downs.

Alfriston may now be reached, for a well-needed meal after this glorious walk, by two alternative routes, either by descending the hill by taking the track to the left or east, opposite the larger long barrow (which is called Long Burgh), or else by continuing along the ridgeway for another few hundred yards and turning to the left at the next turning. The latter track enters Alfriston just by the Star Inn, where the visitor is strongly advised to have his meal. It is a fine old half-timbered building.

The beauty and quaintness of this ancient village have

already been indicated; and the Rambler will certainly want to linger here.

During the long days of midsummer it is a good plan to walk from Seaford to Alfriston by the route described, and after having tea at the Star to walk back to Seaford by the road leading southwards on the west of the River Cuckmere. Incidentally I have frequently observed the most glorious sunsets when in the Cuckmere valley. These can be well seen by taking the road south-westwards leading up to High and Over, and so to Seaford.

The walk between Seaford and Alfriston by the road over High and Over is, however, best taken by starting at Seaford and going along Hindover and Alfriston roads. The climb is so gradual as hardly to be noticeable; but in the course of the walk of nearly three miles, over 300 feet are ascended. As the Rambler reaches the top of the hill he is encountered, almost without any warning, by a panoramic view of East Sussex, with the silvery Cuckmere winding its way gracefully towards the sea at Cuckmere Haven. There is a very steep drop from the top of the hill down to the river. On a northern spur near the top of High and Over is a large bowl-barrow, slightly south of which is a White Horse carved on the escarpment of the chalk downs. This horse is of no antiquity, having been made in 1924; another horse, now nearly or entirely obliterated, was made nearby about 1838.

It remains to indicate one or two other walks which should be taken from Alfriston.

The road northwards past the Market Cross Inn and on the left of the Cross leads towards Winton. The house and garden known as Sanctuary, slightly west of the handful of cottages known as Winton, stands on the site of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, many of the grave-goods from which are in Lewes Museum. A footpath northwards past the Sanctuary leads to Berwick Church; in the churchyard here is a large mound which some have considered to be a barrow. It is surmounted by a War Memorial. A few hundred yards east of Berwick Church is Drusilla's famous tea-rooms. Berwick is pronounced *Burwick*, not *Berrick*.

Starting again from Alfriston, a narrow lane leads from the

main or High Street to the Church, situated on the village green known as the Tye. Alfriston Church is not without its legend. The tradition is that originally it was intended to build the church on a piece of ground known as Savyne Croft, west of the High Street. The building was begun, but during each night the stones were removed and placed, by supernatural agency, in the neighbouring field known as the Tye.

Then one day at dawn a wise man walking abroad saw four oxen lying asleep in the Tye, their rumps together, and resembling, as they lay, the form of a Greek cross. At once the miracle of the stones stood revealed. Heaven had interposed to prevent the building from being erected in the Savyne Croft, and had thus drawn the attention of the builders to the Tye. Forthwith the first site was abandoned, and on the spot where the oxen had been found sleeping was raised the handsome cruciform church called the Cathedral of the South Downs.¹

This tradition has been noted of other churches (see the chapters on Dartmoor and the Cotswolds in this book). On no account should the rumbler miss the Old Clergy House near the church.

A track from Alfriston over the Cuckmere River and past Lullington Church leads to a road up Windover Hill, on which is a probable long barrow, near which is a very large and fine round barrow with a ditch round it. On the escarpment to the north is carved the celebrated Long Man of Wilmington, or Wilmington Giant, who, as a writer has truly observed, is especially long in disclosing his identity and age. On the hill to the east are a few more barrows, and on the northern escarpment overlooking Wilmington is a long barrow known as the Hunter's Burgh. The return to Alfriston may be made by descending the hill by the track past the Hunter's Burgh, and turning westwards past Wilmington Priory, and then along the road south-westwards over the hill near Lullington Church and so entering the village of Alfriston. Those who walk from Alfriston over Windover Hill to Jevington will be rewarded by the sight of a particularly fine series of lynchets or ancient cultivation-terraces east of Jevington,

¹ Arthur Beckett. *The Spirit of the Downs*.

and between Jevington and Eastbourne are some very fine large bowl-barrows.

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CHAPTER XII

MEDWAY MEGALITHS

Cits cotihom is of foure flat stones, one of thuru standing upright in the middle of 2 other, inclosing the edge sides of the first and the fourth layd flat aloft the other three ; . . . menne may stand on eyther side of the middle stone in time of storme or tempest, safe from wind and rayne, being defended with the bredth of the stones, as having one at their backes, one on eyther side, and the fourth over their heads.—*Stow's Chronicle*, 1590

THE celebrated Kit's Coty is one of a group of megalithic remains on each side of the Medway valley between Rochester and Maidstone. The monuments are picturesquely situated in a chequer work of woods and meadows near the ancient Pilgrims' Way, and just below the North Downs.

The locality contains enough material for several rambles, but the most important sites, which are the Coldrum and Addington long barrows and Kit's Coty, can be got into a day's ramble. It is proposed to work from west to east, describing the places of interest as they occur, in order that the Rambler may plan his own rambles and pick and choose whichever sites take his fancy.

The best starting-points are Wrotham (pronounced Rootham) and Wrotham Heath. Ightham to the south-west was the home of the late Benjamin Harrison, the great champion of eoliths, many of which have been found on the plateau above the North Downs. The Pilgrims' Way runs near the foot of the downs from Wrotham north-eastwards. On the east side of the road between Trottscliffe (pronounced locally Trosley) and Wrotham Heath, at a height of 280 feet, marked on the map, is a large round barrow, now in private grounds.

From Wrotham Heath north-eastwards is a road through Addington Park towards Addington Place. Nearly opposite

the latter, north of the road and west of a wood, is the megalith known as the Chestnuts. This consists of a tumbled heap of large sarsens beneath a small clump of trees. It has been in a ruinous condition at least since 1754, but is probably the remains of a burial-chamber.

The road towards Addington cuts through the remains of a fine chambered long barrow a few yards south-east of the Chestnuts. At first sight this monument may appear to be nothing more than a few stones scattered at random over the land: but the rambler who studies the stones carefully will observe that they are nearly all arranged in two parallel rows between which is the mound, at the north-east end of which is the burial-chamber or entrance or both. It should be noted that the stones of this barrow are on both sides of the road. This megalith was excavated with little result by Thomas Wright about the middle of the nineteenth century. It is interesting to note that he obtained unsolicited digging assistance from a local resident who dreamed that he would find a crock of gold therein, but whose enthusiasm waned after a while. This site, like several others described in this chapter, is marked on most maps as a stone circle. It is correctly marked as a burial-chamber on the recently published 1-inch O.S. Fifth Relief Edition map.

From the cross-roads north of the Addington sites a green track leads through Ryarsh Wood to the Coldrum sites. About five prostrate sarsens in a line running north and south may be seen in the field south of Coldrum Farm. There are also one or two other stones east of this line. They are marked on the 6-inch O.S. map (1907 Revision) as 'Stone Circle' which they certainly are not. If they are the remains of any prehistoric monument, which is rather doubtful, they may have formed a stone row.

On the west of the track towards the Pilgrims' Way, and a few yards north of Coldrum Farm, is a fine chambered long barrow marked on most maps as a stone circle. It is the finest and most complete of the Medway megaliths. The rectangular mound, which is shorter than is usual in long barrows, is placed with its long axis east and west, and is bordered by a peristalith of sarsens which go round all four sides. Placed in a prominent situation at the eastern end is a large stone

structure, which is the remains of the burial-chamber. This burial-chamber was excavated in 1910 by F. J. Bennett, E. W. Filkins and others. They found in it the remains of at least 22 skeletons as well as fragments of pottery and a flint saw. One of these fragments of pottery is in Maidstone Museum which also contains a model of the monument. According to Sir A. Keith, the human bones suggest that the 22 skeletons were all related if not of one family, and the ages ranged from newly-born children to old men and women. These are thought to be the primary burials and they are of long barrow type.

One or two other finds have been made at other times at the Coldrum site. During the nineteenth century a skeleton was found in the burial-chamber, and was buried in Meopham churchyard: whereupon the vicar of Trottiscliffe in which the barrow is situated complained that the vicar of Meopham had robbed him of his oldest parishioner! In 1922 another skull was found by E. W. Filkins in the burial-chamber, in which at least 24 people were therefore buried.

All these human bones tended to be in a broken and fragmentary condition. This may denote previous disturbance: but it is more likely to indicate that the skeletons were exposed for some little time before burial, when only a selection of the bones of each skeleton was interred in the burial-chamber. Otherwise it is difficult to understand how so many bodies could have been crammed into so small a space. There is good evidence that during the long barrow period the bodies were frequently exposed in this way before burial when only a selection of the bones was buried. Complete skeletons do, however, occur sometimes as the primary interments in long barrows.

This fine chambered long barrow is vested in the National Trust in memory of the late Benjamin Harrison, and the monument is being well looked after.

Less than half a mile east of the Coldrum barrow is a group of stones marked on the 6-inch O.S. map (1907 Revision) as the remains of a Stone Circle. It may here be noted that there is no evidence that any of the Medway megaliths were stone circles. The present group consists of more than twelve sarsens arranged roughly in two parallel lines from

west to east. It is doubtful if they ever formed a prehistoric monument.

Farther eastward is Devil's Heap Wood, which may have been named from a barrow or other earthwork known as the Devil's Heap; but this is pure conjecture on the part of the writer, who found nothing of interest when he explored the locality.

East of Harvel in Cockadam Shaw about a mile and a half north of the Coldrum sites is a heap of stones marked on the 6-inch O.S. map (1907 Revision) as the remains of a stone circle. There is no evidence that these stones ever formed part of a megalith; on the contrary it is known that at least some of the stones have been placed there recently. They appear to have been tumbled into the large basin-shaped cavity in which they now lie. They are not worth seeing, but the charming village of Harvel, with its many thatched and half-timbered houses, is well worth a visit.

The place-names Stonebridge, Stangate, Stansted, bear witness to the profusion of sarsen stones in this district.

Some three miles north-east of the Coldrum sites is Holborough Hill, on the eastern slope of which is Holborough, a large bowl-shaped barrow covered with trees. It is considered to be Roman, as the result of excavation by Thomas Wright in 1844, when a Roman fibula or brooch was found near or on the original turf-line beneath the barrow. The rambler with an eye for scenery is recommended to avoid Holborough Hill, for from it is a grand view of the cement and lime works between Halling and the place with the ugly name of Snodland. It is therefore a good plan for all but the most ardent students of Roman remains to make for old-world Aylesford after seeing the Coldrum and Addington sites.

In the Aylesford Sand Company's sandpit north of Aylesford some stone cists have been found. One of them may still be seen in the sandpit on inquiry at the foreman's house. These cists are considered to be of Bronze Age.

From Aylesford to the north-east is a road leading to Bluebell Hill and the Kit's Coty group of megaliths. In a ploughed field north of the road, and east of Great Tottington, are two large sarsens, one of which is known as the Coffin

Stone. Two skulls were found under it in 1836, and it seems clear that these stones are the remains of a burial-chamber perhaps originally covered by a barrow. Near these large stones are two much smaller stones which probably formed part of the structure.

On the south side of the metalled road, and almost opposite the Coffin Stone group, is the group known as the Countless Stones, from a tradition that they cannot be counted correctly. This group is beneath a clump of trees. In Stukeley's time (about 1722) the stones were known as the Little Coty House, or Little Kit's Coty and they appear to have been arranged in a more orderly manner, evidently forming a burial-chamber. The 'Ground Plot' of them is given in Stukeley's *Itinerarium Curiosum*. It is still frequent for groups of people to be seen counting the stones.

We now come to the most famous of the Medway megaliths, Kit's Coty, situated on the hill immediately west of an ancient trackway leading northwards from the cross-roads by the Countless Stones. In many books it is called Kit's Coty House. It is believed, however, that Coty means cottage or house, and to avoid redundancy the recent tendency has been to call the monument Kit's Coty. It was probably originally the dummy entrance at the east end of a long barrow. The mound is now nearly levelled, but under favourable conditions it may be seen from the top of Bluebell Hill and it is also visible from the air. Stukeley drew the monument in 1722 and in his drawing he included the long mound which he called 'the grave'. He also included at the western end of the mound, a stone which he called 'the General's Tomb'. This appears also on illustrations of about 1780 which I have before me. This stone was destroyed many years ago. A 'parcell of small stones' which Stukeley noted in 1723, through a correspondent, near the western end of the mound may have been the remains of a peristalith or perhaps of a burial-chamber.

Near Warren Farm there was formerly another burial-chamber or cist which was destroyed in 1823. Not far away is the White Horse Stone, north of the track to the east of Warren Cottage. This stone is a very large sarsen, which appears to have been placed in its present upright position

by human agency, and near it are a few much smaller stones. The White Horse Stone has a number of natural perforations in it, which give it the appearance of a horse's head; others see in it the representation of a fish! It may or may not be the remains of a megalithic monument. The present stone is not the original White Horse Stone which was destroyed some years ago.

From the Lower Bell Inn nearby there are frequent buses to Chatham and Maidstone. At the latter town are an excellent Library and Museum, where may be seen in the former a collection of books on Medway Valley antiquities, and in the latter many of the archaeological finds of the district.

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CHAPTER XIII

BRECKLAND AND ITS BORDERS

Few districts in Europe have more attractions to the archaeologist than Breckland. . . . Its important flint-mines at Grime's Graves ; its lengthy mileage of primitive trackways ; its dykes, many barrows, and the numerous relics of early cultures which are constantly being discovered, indicate that . . . it was one of the most important centres of culture in the British Isles.

W. G. CLARKE, *In Breckland Wilds*

THE name Breckland was given by the late W. G. Clarke to that peaceful stretch of undulating heathland which occupies the central portions of Norfolk and Suffolk. This extensive area is mostly situated on sandy soil, but is partly on the chalk. The beauty of the heath is enhanced by the number of pine plantations which are scattered over it, and here and there are clumps of golden gorse. Such a setting is ideal for a quiet ramble among the trackways, occupation-sites, and barrows of prehistoric man, in which the heath abounds. The barrows of Breckland are mostly of Bronze Age. No long barrows have so far been found here. Roman barrows exist at Eastlow Hill near Bury St. Edmunds.

While no parts of Breckland are especially prolific in tumuli, the greater portion of the region is more or less sprinkled with them. The largest groups hereabouts are just beyond the borders of Breckland—on Salthouse Heath near Cromer, and on Martlesham and Brightwell Heaths near Ipswich. It is proposed to explore this region by following the supposed course of the Icknield Way leisurely through Suffolk and Norfolk.

We left this ancient track on the Berkshire Downs (Chapter VIII), where we were in the midst of a rich Early Bronze Age area of barrows, including several of bell and disc types. It appears that the bell- and disc-barrows originated in the



THE COLDRUM LONG BARROW, KENT



BELL BARROW AMONG THE SEVEN HILLS, S.E. OF THETFORD,
NORFOLK

regions of Stonehenge or Avebury, spreading thence north-eastwards along the Berkshire Downs, roughly following the course of the ancient track known as the Icknield Way, or of the neighbouring and perhaps earlier Ridgeway over the downs. After following the Berkshire Downs, and crossing the Thames, the Way runs north-eastwards along the western slope of the Chilterns to Dunstable Downs, where it runs within a few yards of the group of barrows known as the 'Five Knolls', among which are some bell-barrows.

The Way then continues north-eastwards through Baldock and Rayston, passing near the Therfield Heath group of barrows known as the Five Hills. These are all of bowl shape except one which is a fine long barrow. Continuing north-eastwards, the track passes near the site of two barrows called 'The Two Captains' near Newmarket Racecourse, and so enters Breckland.

Between Kentford and Lackford there are round barrows on each side of the Way, within a mile or two of its course. From Lackford the Way goes by Icklingham Belt north-eastwards to Thetford, according to the generally accepted view. A possible alternative route, however, is via Icklingham, the name of this delightful village being suggestive. The track immediately east of the church, which has a thatched roof, is known as the Pilgrims' Path. Near this path and two miles north-east of Icklingham are five barrows, one of which is east of the track and the other four are west thereof. These barrows are difficult to find, and when found are rather disappointing; they are all of bowl shape, and are of but slight elevation. About two miles east of the supposed Icknield Way, near Brandon road Heath, is a tumulus known by the suggestive name of 'Traveller's Hill'. On the First Edition of the 1-inch Ordnance map three barrows appear to be marked here. The writer has not yet visited the site. Slightly north of Traveller's Hill the Icknield Way cuts a fine road known as Duke's Ride, at a place called Barrow's Corner, which may or may not have been the site of a barrow. Between here and Thetford the course of the Icknield Way is difficult to trace.

It is therefore a good plan to turn to the east along Duke's Ride to Euston, bearing north over the Little Onse bridge

and eventually reaching a barrow on Elder Hill and another to the north-west known as Tunt Hill or Tunt's Hill. Both these are large bowl-barrows. East of the road, and nearly opposite Elder Hill, is the important group known as Seven Hills, which were originally ten or more in number. Unfortunately those at the western end of the group were damaged or removed during the Great War when the site was occupied by an aerodrome. The remainder of the group consists of several fine large bowl-barrows and one bell-barrow, which is the largest in the group. There may also have been two barrows of 'disc' or 'ring' type, according to Martin, the author of the *History of Thetford*; but these are now scarcely visible from the ground though they have been shown up better on an air-photograph taken in 1935. The scenery between Icklingham and here is most beautiful.

It is a short distance from here to Thetford, which contains a very fine mound known as Castle Hill, beneath which some silver bells are said to be buried. Castle Hill, as the name implies, is the site of a castle.

The path of the Icknield Way from Thetford onwards is conjectural. The late W. G. Clarke favoured a track northwards to Hunstanton, and this is the route along which I propose to conduct my readers. It is proposed to follow Clarke's suggested route in its main outlines, but to deviate from it frequently for the purpose of seeing barrows.

The metalled road from Thetford northwards towards the Water Works leads to Gallows Hill, where there are two probable ploughed barrows just east of the road. This road leads eventually to Lynford Point, which is only a mile east of the famous flint-mine shafts known as Grime's Graves. If the ramblers continue past West Tofts and then along the road to the north he will light upon another prehistoric flint quarry, in Buckenham Tofts Park. A mile to the north-east the road joins Smuggler's Road, which is probably part of the Icknield Way. In its passage across Bodney Warren it passes a barrow called Dead Man's Hill from a tradition that a man was buried there; the truth of which belief has been proved by excavation.

About two miles north-east of Dead Man's Hill (which is not marked on the 1-inch O.S. maps) is Clermont, slightly

west of which, in a field called Hill Field, a very important burial was found in a barrow which has now been destroyed. The barrow was certainly a round one. It was opened in 1849, and contained the burial of a crouched skeleton of a man, accompanied by a bronze dagger, with decayed parts of a wooden handle adhering, a necklace of amber beads, and three articles of thin gold plate. The objects of gold and amber are identical with those found in the finest of the Wiltshire barrows, and it is evident that we are here dealing with an extension of the rich and important Early and Middle Bronze Age culture which was focused on Salisbury Plain.

The Smugglers' Road continues northwards to the River Wissey, after which it continues for several miles as a main thoroughfare to Swaffham. It was at Swaffham that a man is said to have found some treasure under a pear tree in his garden, and built the north aisle of the parish church with the proceeds thereof. The story or legend is fully analysed in *The Science of Folk-lore*, by Sir Laurence Gomme.

The road north of Swaffham leads to Castle Acre with its ancient earthworks and ruins. Four miles north-east is Weasenham Plantation and Lyngs, the site of a very important group of barrows. Three of them are on the Lyngs—two bowls and one magnificent rare type, approaching a transitional form between bell and disc. This example consists of a large mound, surrounded by a platform outside of which is a ditch the earth from which has been thrown outwards to form a bank. There is also a suggestion of a slight bank between the ditch and the platform. This fine earthwork is nearly sixty yards in diameter. Inside the Plantation (which is private property) are four more barrows, one of which is called Black Hill. The other three are rare types with outer banks. One appears to be a bell with outer bank, and the other two appear to be a peculiar variety of disc-barrow having the central mound spread over the entire area of the platform. As a group the Weasenham barrows are essentially of Wiltshire type, and here again we have evidence of a north-eastern extension of the elaborate Early and Middle Bronze Age barrows of Wessex. A short distance to the north-west, on Bircham Common, is yet further evi-

dence, in the form of a group of barrows which include at least one of bell shape. One of these barrows yielded gold beads of Wiltshire type when opened by F. C. Lukis in 1842. All these sites are within three or four miles of the course of the Icknield Way as conjectured by W. G. Clarke, who possessed the most intimate knowledge of this region.

This perambulation along and near the supposed course of the Icknield Way is too long for a day's walk even for the most energetic explorer; but it would make a suitable excursion for a long week end, or a series of two or three day's excursions.

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[The Norfolk Research Committee has recently appointed a Barrow Sub-Committee, which will publish reports during the next few years.]

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35 SE. (Wensum);

103 SW. (Thetford Seven Hills).

6-inch O.S. *Suffolk*, 45 SW. (Eastlow Hill Roman barrows).

76 NW., NE., SW. and SE. (extensive group on Martlesham Heath near Ipswich).

CHAPTER XIV

ROLLRIGHT

. . . So I ascended there a high hill and travall'd all on y^e top of y^e hills a pleasant and a good Roade. I came to Rowle Stone, where are many such greate stones as is at Stonidge, one stands upright, a broad Stone Called the King's Stone. . . .

Diary of Celia Fiennes, circa 1697

THE Rollright area is three miles north of Chipping Norton and about fourteen miles west of Banbury. At present divided into a number of fields most of which are or have been under plough, it was originally a stretch of heathland, across which ran a 'pleasant and a good Roade' traversed by Celia Fiennes. This road, which is on a ridgeway, is of very early date, if it is not prehistoric. A large part of it forms the county boundary between Oxfordshire and Warwickshire. Cultivation during the last two centuries has obliterated a number of barrows that formerly existed. Some of these barrows were fortunately noted by Stukeley, and the existence of others is betrayed by field-names such as 'Barrow Ground' or 'Barrow-Piece' a short distance west of the Rollright Stones, and Berryfields north of Great Rollright.

The Rollright Stones may be approached conveniently from Chipping Norton, by a road to the north turning slightly westward at Over Norton. A walk of about three miles brings the rambler to the cross-roads about 400 yards west of the Stones. At the cross-roads, on the eastern corner, is the White House, where application should be made for the key to the stone circle. The visitor will also do well to purchase here the excellent *Guide to the Rollright Stones*, by T. H. Ravenhill, price 2s., and postcard views of the stones may also be purchased if desired.

The Stones consist of three items—the King Stone, the

King's Men, and The Whispering Knights, which are also known as the Five Knights. The local legend is that a king with his knights and men was marching across the heath when a witch came to him and said :

Seven long strides shalt thou take, and
If Long Compton thou canst see
King of England thou shalt be.

The king took seven strides, but instead of seeing Long Compton he saw a huge mound (the Archdruid's Barrow) rise up before him, and the witch said :

As Long Compton thou canst not see
King of England thou shalt not be.
Rise up, stick, and stand still, stone,
For King of England thou shalt be none,
Thou and thy men hear stones shall be,
And I myself an eldern tree.

Thereupon the king was turned into a hoar stone (the King Stone), his knights into the group known as the Five or Whispering Knights, and his men into the circle known as the 'King's Men'.

But some day 'the stones will turn into flesh and blood once more, and the King will start as an armed warrior at the head of his army to overcome his enemies and rule over all the land'.¹

Stukeley informs us that 'this story the country people for some miles round are very fond of, and take it very ill if anyone doubts of it: nay, they are in danger of being stoned for their unbelief'.

The King Stone is on the north or Warwickshire side of the road, and is placed in front of a long mound. Stukeley called this mound the Archdruid's Barrow, and thought it was a long burrow. South of this mound is a long pit, possibly the remains of a quarry, but perhaps the quarry from which the material was obtained to construct the long mound. Excavation by Ravenhill and others in 1926 led the excavators to conclude that the mound was natural. It is, however, very difficult to distinguish disturbed from undisturbed ground

¹ Sir Arthur Evans.

in this subsoil, and it is probably still an open question whether the mound is natural or artificial. According to tradition there is a cave under the King Stone and perhaps under the Circle as well. Stukeley informs us that 'near the arch-druid's barrow by that called the King Stone is a square plat, oblong, formed on the turf. Hither, on a certain day in the year, the young men and maidens customarily meet and make merry with cakes and ale'. It is possible that this performance took place on Midsummer Eve, when it was customary for the blossoming elder to be cut at the King Stone. An old woman told Sir Arthur Evans that she used to see fairies come out of a hole in the side of the mound by the King Stone and dance on the mound at nights. She would place a stone over the hole to keep the fairies in, but the stone would always be moved before the next morning. This hole appears to be no longer visible, if it ever existed. The King Stone has been conjectured, by Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, to be part of an entrance to a burial-chamber on the south side of the Archdruid's Barrow. If so, this entrance would have been formed by two slabs; each of which had a semicircular piece removed, so that a circular hole was formed when the stones were placed together.

Nearly opposite the King Stone and south of the road is the stone circle known as the King's Men. At present it consists of a circle of about seventy stones, most of which are 'corroded like worm-eaten wood by the harsh jaws of time'. There is evidence that some of the stones have been placed in the circle comparatively recently, and the circle may have originally consisted of a smaller number of stones than at present. The stones in the circle are supposed to be countless, and the story is related of a baker who tried to count them by putting penny loaves on each, only to be foiled by the mysterious disappearance of some of the loaves from the stones. At midnight the stones of the circle are said to become men again and dance round.

A short distance to the east is the group known as the Five, or Whispering, Knights. One story is that they were turned into stone for whispering treason against their king. Writing of this monument, Stukeley said ' 'tis what the old Britons call'd a kist vaen or Stone chest '. 'The Whispering Knights'

consist of five upright stones originally surmounted by a coverstone which has now fallen. They are probably the remains of a burial-chamber which may have formed part of a long barrow. It is related how it took twenty horses to move this coverstone down the hill to serve as a bridge across a stream, but the stone kept on moving away during the nights from its new position; whereupon it was towed back to its former position. The return journey, although uphill, was done easily by only one horse. Such, then, is a brief account of the Rollright Stones and their folk-lore. It remains to describe a few neighbouring sites.

North of the White House (400 yards west of the King's Men) is a track, on the west of which may be noted at least three depressions in the ground. If this track is followed for about 500 yards until a hedgerow running eastwards is reached, and if this hedgerow is followed eastwards for a few yards, a number of sarsen-stones will be found north of the hedge and overlooking a spring flowing towards Long Compton. These stones may be the remains of a barrow (not certain whether long or round) containing stonework, which was mentioned by Stukeley.

If the ancient road on the county boundary by the Rollright Stones be followed south-westwards, past the Cross Hands Inn, a small group of sites may be seen to the west of the road and near some old quarries. Among the sites is a large prostrate stone in the field south of the quarry west of the Cross Hands Inn; the possible remains of a long barrow in the field west of this; and a small round barrow about 9 yards in diameter and 2 feet high, at the corner of the wood to the south. South of this wood, beneath a clump of trees, is the remains of a round barrow which appears to have been edged round with a retaining-circle of large stones. South-west of this is a camp called Chastleton Burrow. Rather more than a mile south of this is Daylesford House and Park, celebrated as the residence of Warren Hastings. To the east of Chastleton Burrow is a road leading to Cornwell and across a stream towards Boulter's Barn, near where the road meets the main road to Chipping Norton. On the north of this road and a few yards east of the corner is a large stone, which may be the remains of a megalithic monument. Half a



THE KING STONE, ROLLRIGHT, WARWICKSHIRE



THE WHISPERING KNIGHTS, ROLLRIGHT, OXON



• mile south of this stone, on the south side of a trackway leading to Churchill, is a large round barrow; there are several more barrows near Sarsden to the south, mostly round but one of them long, known as Lynham Barrow, near the seventh milestone from Burford. Lynham Barrow is an interesting though somewhat mutilated example of a chambered long barrow. In its present condition it is difficult to say whether it belongs to the true or false passage-grave type. A stone protruding about 5 feet 6 inches out of the north-eastern end may be the remains of a portal, but whether real or dummy it is impossible to say. The actual mound is in tolerably fair condition and is about 160 feet long. It has about three deep hollows with heaps of stones exposed, some of which may be the remains of dry stone walling. In the central hollow is a large upright stone. A hedge runs transversely across the mound.

A few yards north of Lynham Barrow is an oval mound which might be another long barrow, but in view of its present rather shapeless condition judgement must be suspended.

About three miles south-east of Chipping Norton is the Hawk Stone in a cultivated field. There is a distinct rise in the ground where this stone stands, and the site may well be the remains of another chambered long barrow.

South-west of Churchill is a large circular mound, possibly a barrow, known as the Mount: but the writer thinks it might be medieval. Churchill is a pretty and peaceful-looking village, built largely of the beautiful grey stone of the Cotswolds. William Smith, the father of English geology, lived here.

A short distance north-east of Chipping Norton, near Chapel House, there was formerly a disc-barrow or 'Druid's barrow' according to Stukeley, but there is nothing now visible.

Lastly, the Rambler will find the village of Long Compton well worth a visit, as it figures so largely in Rollright folk-lore. Although on an arterial road, it is still unspoilt, and is replete with good refreshment houses. Many of the cottages in this village are of the Cotswold grey stone, roofed with thatch.

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- 6-inch O.S. Map, Oxfordshire. Sheet 14 NW.
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THE KING'S MEN, ROLLRIGHT, OXON



HETTY PEGLER'S TUMP, CLEY, GLOS



CHAPTER XV

THE COTSWOLDS

THE Cotswolds are essentially an area of long barrows. Round ones certainly exist in numbers, but they all appear to be of bowl form, the more elaborate bell and disc and other types being absent so far as is known. The region selected in this chapter is the south-western corner of the Cotswolds, and includes one of the most interesting long barrows in the country—Hetty Pegler's Tump, near Uley.

The village of Uley forms a convenient starting-point for this ramble, and may be reached from Dursley, or by bus from Stroud. A road northwards from Uley skirts the eastern side of Uley Bury, which is a fine camp. In the col between Uley Bury and the hill to the north is a farm, where application should be made for the key to Hetty Pegler's Tump; the ramblers are here supplied with matches and a candle, for the use of which a small charge is made. The barrow, which is about half a mile to the north of the farm, is approached by walking across a field west of the road. The eastern end of the barrow is railed in. After unlocking the outer gate, the ramblers approach the entrance to the barrow. This entrance is placed between two horns. Many Cotswold barrows had horns originally but they are scarcely ever visible now, though their existence can be determined by excavation.

Access to the internal passage and chambers at Hetty Pegler's Tump is obtained through the very small square door covering the entrance. It will be noticed that the internal structure consists of a low passage with two chambers or recesses leading off on the left or south. Originally there were chambers on the north side as well, but these were in such a ruinous condition when the barrow was opened last century that they were blocked up. Connected with one of

the burial-chambers by a small hole is a kind of small ante-chamber, the purpose of which is unknown. It may have been a recess to contain food for the dead, to contain the burial of an infant, or a 'ghost-hole' to assist the spirit of deceased to escape, or it may be a recess symbolical of a connexion between the living and the dead. Hetty Pegler's Tump is one of the very few English chambered barrows the internal structures of which are still accessible. The mound commands magnificent views, especially of the Welsh Mountains to the west.

A mile north of this Tump is a heap of stones placed in a slight hollow in a denuded mound, west of the road. This is what is left of Nympsfield long barrow. The plan of the stones is that of a cross, the long central arm of which corresponds to the passage at Uley, the offshoots being the remains of the burial-chambers.

A mile south-east is Nympsfield, where postcard views of Hetty Pegler's Tump are obtainable. A road from the Nympsfield long barrow eastwards reaches Bown Hill in about two miles. If the Rambler follows a track southwards for half a mile and then walks to the west for a short distance he will come to a long barrow on top of Bown Hill, with a round one a few yards to the west. After returning to the main road north of Bown Hill, Selsley Common to the north should be crossed, when a very large long barrow known as the Toots comes into view. This is one of the longest examples on the Cotswolds, being about 210 feet long. A mile to the east is a celebrated Roman villa at Woodchester, the pavements of which are said to have been originally composed of no less than a million and a half tesserae.

To the south-east of the villa is Minchinhampton Common, on which are two barrows, one round and one long, as well as some pillow-mounds. The road across Minchinhampton Common eastwards passes an entrenchment known as the Bulwarks, and after another mile reaches Blue Boy's Farm, north-east of which is, or was, a round barrow which the writer has not yet seen. Another mile farther east is the Hyde Tumulus, a large oval barrow covered with trees. This barrow is thought to be Roman. If so it is one of the very few Roman barrows in the west country.

A track southwards leads to the main road, along which the Rambler should walk a few yards eastwards and then take the track to the south past Peaches Farm, meeting an east-west track near a place called Crackstone, which may well be the site of a barrow, possibly a long one. East of Crackstone is a field called the Devil's Churchyard, which has the fairly common legend of an intention to build a church there being frustrated by the mysterious removal of the stones to another field at Minchinhampton, where the church was ultimately erected. The Devil's Churchyard is supposed to be haunted, and the field to the south is known as Noggar-noise, which may be a corruption of knocking-noise. Certain stones at the Devil's Churchyard may be the remains of a megalithic monument.

To the west of Crackstone is a road leading southwards to the Minchinhampton Long Stone. The latter is said to walk round the field *when it hears* the clock strike twelve, and the reputed healing properties of this holed stone have already been referred to in the Folk-lore chapter. This stone is perhaps the remains of a chambered long barrow. A large black dog is said to appear and vanish periodically near this site.

A walk of a short distance southwards along the road west of the Long Stone brings the Rambler to the entrance to Gatecombe Park. A walk of a few yards into the park leads to a gate on the right or north, which is the entrance to the field in which the Gatecombe Park long barrow is situated. This is a fine example, covered with trees. It is surrounded by a modern stone wall. Half a mile south-west is a round barrow which I have not yet seen.

The Rambler should now return to the road by the entrance to Gatecombe Park, and walk for nearly half a mile southwards, turning to the west or right at the first turning, and should continue walking for another few hundred yards until the Tinglestone long barrow becomes visible on the right. This is also a fine mound, covered with trees. It is crowned by a single upright stone (the Tinglestone) at the northern end, which is probably one of the uprights which may have originally, with the addition of a capstone, formed an entrance to the barrow.

The road by the Tinglestone barrow descends southwards into the pretty village of Avening, in the beautiful rectory garden of which are three stone burial-chambers which were removed many years ago from the long barrow known as Norn's Tump or the Norn east of Avening. On the hill between Avening and Nailsworth are four round barrows and one long one.

The Rambler who, after seeing all the above-mentioned sites, has energy left to walk another four miles, may see Windmill Tump, Rodmarton, by walking eastwards from Avening along the road by the river, and taking a turning to the right leading to the Roman Road which runs within a short distance of Windmill Tump. This barrow is surrounded by a modern stone wall. The remains of the dummy entrance at the eastern end are visible, and the chambers at the north and south are also well seen, but the actual mound is rather mutilated. The whole barrow is covered with trees.

The living of Rodmarton hard by was at one time in the hands of Rev. Samuel Lysons, author of *Magna Britannia*, *Our British Ancestors*, and other antiquarian works, in some of which the author discusses Cotswold barrows at length.

Belas Knap.—It remains to discuss this celebrated long barrow which, although on the Cotswolds, is outside the region taken for study in the rest of this chapter. Belas Knap is situated two miles south of Winchcombe, and may conveniently be approached either from that town or from Cheltenham from which it is distant about four miles. Post-card-photographs of it may be purchased in Winchcombe, a guide to which town, the ancient capital of Mercia, is also obtainable. A walk southwards from Winchcombe, past the entrance to Sudeley Castle and grounds, leads to a mill by a turning to the left or east; this turning leads to within a quarter of a mile of the barrow. At a fork in this road, by Cordean Hall, is a notice-board directing the Rambler to Belas Knap. I have found that a slightly quicker way is to ignore this notice board and take the road on the left past the Wadfield Roman Villa, nearly opposite which is a foot-path leading up the hill to the west, by the side of the wood. On top of this hill is the barrow, which has been restored by the Office of Works and the Bristol and Gloucestershire



BELAS KNAP, GLOS. THE DUMMY ENTRANCE (RESTORED)



BELAS KNAP, GLOS. THE N.E. BURIAL-CHAMBER (RESTORED)



Archaeological Society. The barrow has been restored as near as possible to what is believed to have been its appearance when first erected.

The rambler will notice that it is the 'dummy entrance' type of long barrow, having the burial-chambers inset from the flank-sides of the mound. The magnificent dry stone walling on the horns on each side of the dummy entrance should be closely examined. It is mostly recent but some of it is original. The horns are also worthy of careful attention, because this is, so far as the writer knows, the only English long barrow in which the horns are really well seen. It will be noticed that they are convex, and not concave like the horns of the long barrows in Caithness. It is hardly necessary to say that there is nothing but the ordinary material of the mound behind the dummy entrance: there is no passage as at Uley.

The whole mound is edged round by dry stone walling, which is much higher on the horns than elsewhere. On the western flank-side is a burial-chamber, and there are two more on the eastern flank-side. The best of these is about 5 feet high and 6 feet wide, the entrance being nearly 4 feet wide. The entrance and chamber are walled with dry stone walling, which is partly obscured in the chamber by six massive upright stones surrounding the walls. The inlet at the south end is a burial-chamber which could not, for technical reasons, be roofed over when the barrow was restored. The restored roofing of the other chambers is quite unlike the original roofing.

Every one interested in archaeology and rambling should make a special point of visiting this fine monument, because it is one of the most interesting of its kind in the country.

Wincheombe itself is a good centre, and may be approached by bus from Cheltenham, or by train from London and elsewhere.

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MAPS :

6-inch O.S. Gloucestershire, 49 NW. and SW., and 50 SW.

6-inch O.S. Gloucestershire, 20 SW. (Belas Knap).

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CHAPTER XVI

ARBOR LOW AND THE DERBYSHIRE DALES

WE now enter a region as rich in antiquities as it is beautiful in scenery. For the limestone hills of north Derbyshire are not only separated by the glorious flower-decked dales, but are crowned by innumerable barrows, here almost universally termed lows, some of which contain stone cists and chambers.

The best centres for exploring this area are Bakewell and Youlgreave. The peaceful village of Youlgreave is a particularly convenient centre for the Rambler, and accommodation may be obtained at the Bull's Head or the George Inn. Slightly south-west of the village is Bradford Dale, through which flows the River Bradford, a tributary of the Derwent. Bradford Dale, though among the smallest, is yet among the most delightful of the dales, its stream of crystal-clear water flowing among banks decked in spring with profusion of primroses and bluebells, with here and there a graceful silver birch, all set in a carpet of the smoothest emerald grass interrupted ever and anon by protruding rocks of grey limestone.

This beautiful dale is bordered on the west by the grounds enclosing Lomberdale House, which formerly contained a fine museum of local antiquities formed by William Bateman and his son Thomas, who lived at Middleton Hall to the south. The archaeology of all this district is permeated by the spirit of Thomas Bateman, a gentleman of means who spent the greater part of his life in excavating the barrows hereabouts, and who wrote the *Vestiges of the Antiquities of Derbyshire and Ten Years' Diggings in Celtic and Saxon Grave Hills in Derby, Stafford and York*, as well as numerous papers in archaeological journals. Thomas Bateman's tomb, surmounted by a stone model of a prehistoric cinerary urn, is to be seen just behind Middleton Congregational Church.

The manuscript of his books, in his own incomparable copper-plate handwriting and illustrated by beautifully executed drawings, is in the Public Museum at Weston Park, Sheffield, along with many other Bateman papers including his own interleaved copy of the *Vestiges* with his manuscript additions. The bulk of Bateman's collection of his finds in the barrows is also in the Sheffield Museum, and this fine collection should be seen by all those interested in the antiquities of this region.

Our survey must necessarily start with a brief account of Arbor Low, the great stone circle which is the most important prehistoric antiquity in Derbyshire. It is situated about three miles west of Middleton-by-Youlgreave. It is possible that the road known as Long Rake which leads from a few yards north of Arbor Low to Youlgreave may be on the site of an ancient trackway. A mile south of the circle is Green Lane which leads to Middleton, and this lane is also probably an ancient track.

Arbor Low should be approached from the road to the north (Long Rake) where there is a turning leading southwards to Little Oldham's Farm. It is at this farm that one should pay an admission fee of 3d. to Arbor Low and Gib Hill, and here also is obtainable a threepenny guide to the site. This guide is, however, not too reliable.

Arbor Low consists of a group of stones arranged in a circle, surrounded by a deep trench and bank. In general appearance the site may be said to resemble the circles at Avebury and Stanton Drew, but nearly all the stones at Arbor Low have fallen and are now lying flat on the ground. This impressive circle was like others of its kind probably the centre of civil and religious life in prehistoric times for the district in which it was placed. Yet the moors in the immediate vicinity of this circle are not studded nearly so thickly with barrows as are the plains surrounding Stonehenge and Avebury. Nevertheless, nearly all the best barrows in the Peak and limestone areas of Derbyshire and Staffordshire are within a six-mile radius of Arbor Low. It is certain that many barrows in this area have been destroyed. The circle may have been constructed between 2000 and 1800 B.C., and is earlier than the Bronze Age barrow placed on its eastern margin.

There is a long entrenchment stretching from the circle to a point rather east of the very large and fine tumulus known as Gib Hill. Gib Hill is one of the most impressive round barrows in Derbyshire. Excavation by Thomas Bateman in 1848 showed that the mound covered up four smaller mounds arranged in a square. These four small mounds were covered by a mass of earth and stones and near the summit of the whole was placed a cist composed of large slabs of limestone native to the locality. In this cist was placed the burial, which consisted of a deposit of cremated human bones and a food vessel. Bateman and his diggers were busily burrowing near the base of the mound searching for the burial when the earth above fell in and exposed the cist which partly fell on top of them.

The moors for a few miles round Arbor Low are scattered with round barrows, most of which, however, are rather uninteresting. One of the best examples is End Low, situated prominently on a hilltop two miles south of Gib Hill. End Low was opened by Thomas Bateman who found in it, 10 feet below the top of the mound, the burial of a skeleton of a man accompanied by a bronze knife-dagger and a flint implement. One of the most interesting round barrows opened by Bateman was Liff's Low, two miles south of End Low. In this he found a cist constructed of the usual local limestone slabs, and this cist contained the contracted skeleton of a man, evidently a leader of his tribe. With him were buried a pottery vessel, two beautifully-chipped flint axes, a hammer-head, two flint arrow-heads, two flint knives polished on the edge, and other flint implements, as well as the horn of a red deer and a pair of enormous boar's tusks. Of even greater interest was some red ochre, three pieces of which were found near the skeleton. Here, therefore, we have the burial of a hunter, complete with arrow-heads, axes, knives, wood and trophies.

At least four round barrows in this area contain visible stone chambers and cists, and these examples are unquestionably the most interesting from the point of view of their present appearance.

The Five Wells tumulus is situated north of Five Wells Farm and west of Taddington, on the moors about five miles

daus, rock idols and cairns. Their (i.e. the Druids') sacred groves have long since given way to cultivation; but their more durable monuments . . . remain as helps to illustrate their history' (!). West of Birchover is the inn known as the Druid Arms, and whoever purchases a half-pint here may enjoy the privilege of seeing the 'Druid Stones' at Rowtor behind the inn. They are certainly well worth seeing and two rocking stones are among them.

A mile to the west, in a field on Harthill Moor known as Nine Stone Close, are four large stones which are considered to be the remains of a stone circle. To the south another large stone, apparently ancient, functions as a gatepost, and this stone may be connected with the others. Near-by is a camp called Castle Ring.

Before leaving Birchover for Stanton Moor the rambler is advised to call at the local Post Office and obtain the pamphlet entitled *Birchover: its Prehistoric and Druidical Remains* (price 9d.), as this is an excellent and reliable account of the important local antiquities. At the time of writing, the Post Office houses an interesting collection of urns, implements and other articles, many of which have been recently excavated from the barrows on Stanton Moor by the proprietor of the Post Office and his son, Messrs. J. C. and J. P. Heathcote. Here also are obtainable postcard-photographs of local barrows, stone circles, prehistoric urns and other antiquities. In fact, at Birchover the barrow-hunter is thoroughly catered for.

The road from Birchover to Stanton passes slightly east of a small plantation enclosing the large block known as the Andle Stone. Major Rooke, writing in the eighteenth century, stated that the Andle Stone was surrounded by a circle of stones in his time. Three hundred yards south-west of this stone is a small circle of six stones, which in Bateman's time enclosed a barrow in which he found cremated bones and the remains of 'three or four cinerary urns, and as many incense cups'. North of and adjoining this circle is a peculiar barrow which has been uncovered by the Heathcotes, revealing a stone cist. The Heathcotes have also uncovered the stone circle, and many of the barrows on Stanton Moor east of the road from Birchover to Stanton.

After returning to the main road from the sites near the Audle Stone, the Rambler is advised to walk a few yards to the south and take the pathway by New Park Quarry leading past the Cork Stone, the climbing of which is much more difficult than it appears, in spite of the foot-rests and handles fixed to the stone. After passing one or two small barrow-sites the Rambler reaches a large round barrow surrounded by a wire fence, nearly 400 yards east of the Cork Stone. This most interesting barrow has been opened, leaving a good view of its internal structure. It is seen to contain two concentric circles of stone and a stone cist in the centre, the whole being originally covered by a circular mound. This cist contained the primary burial which was by cremation, and about a dozen secondary cremations were found in different parts of the barrow. All the barrows so far opened with result on Stanton Moor have contained primary burials by cremation, and they all seem to belong to the Bronze Age.

Between this barrow and the 1832 Reform Tower to the north-east are several more barrows, including some very peculiar small and irregularly-shaped ones the internal structures of which have been left exposed after excavation by the Heathcotes. This extensive group includes about three earth circles. On the northern fringe of the moor is the stone circle known as the Nine Ladies, with its attendant single stone, about 30 yards to the west known as the King Stone. Both these sites are surrounded by modern low stone walls and 'the Nine Ladies' is protected under the Ancient Monuments Act. The Nine Ladies circle originally enclosed a barrow. Near-by 'are several cairns: one had been opened a few years ago, and much rummaged: bones were found with a large blue glass bead'; thus wrote Major Rooke about 1787. One of the best round barrows in this area is the large one 85 yards south of the Reform Tower. For descriptions of many other sites on Stanton Moor, which is a region of great charm, the reader is referred to the bibliography at the end of this chapter.

North of Stanton Moor is a tract of country the magnificence of which no words of the writer's choice can adequately describe. It includes the beautiful grounds of Chatsworth and Haddon Hall, Calton Pastures (on which are about half a

dozen good round barrows) and Beeley. East of Chatsworth is the celebrated barrow known as Hob Hurst's House, remotely situated on a bleak moor bordering Bunker's Hill Wood; this site is traditionally the abode of Hob o' the Hurst, and the hurst of course is Bunker's Hill Wood.

Hob Hurst's House differs from the majority of barrows in being of a squarish shape, surrounded by a square ditch and bank. The mound was opened by Bateman who found in it a stone cist enclosing a cremation.

It remains to refer briefly to a grave-mound of much later date than any previously described in this chapter. The example in question is near Arbor Low, west of Benty Grange Farm and about 200 yards north of the eighth milestone from Buxton on the road to Ashbourne. It is quite small but differs from most examples in being surrounded by a low ditch and bank. In the words of Bateman, the mound 'afforded a more instructive collection of relics than has ever been discovered in the county, . . . which are not surpassed in interest by any remains hitherto recovered from any Anglo-Saxon burying place in the kingdom'. It contained the burial of an Anglo-Saxon chief, with a helmet, the remains of a leather cap with silver border and fastenings, and other grave-goods.

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*Specially recommended.

MAPS :

1-inch O.S. Popular Edition. Sheet 45.

1-inch O.S. Tourist Map of the Peak District.

6-inch O.S. Derbyshire. Sheet 28 and 29 SW.

O.S. Map of the Trent Basin, showing the distribution of Long Barrows, Megaliths, and Habitation Sites.

MUSEUM :

The Weston Park Museum, Sheffield, contains the Bateman collection of grave-goods from barrows in Derbyshire and elsewhere.

CHAPTER XVII

THE WOLD COUNTRY

(1) LINCOLNSHIRE is proverbially among the most ploughed counties in England, and this fact may be the explanation of the scarcity of ancient barrows here. On the other hand, barrows are extremely scarce in some of the neighbouring counties, including Northants, Rutland and Leicestershire. Lincolnshire never was a prolific barrow-area such as Wiltshire, Sussex, or Yorkshire. It has recently been worked over very thoroughly archaeologically by Mr. C. W. Phillips, F.S.A., from whose published papers and verbal information most of this section is compiled. The thanks of every archaeologist are due to Mr. Phillips for the thorough way in which he has studied the barrows of this hitherto somewhat neglected county.

It is proposed to start this ramble at Burgh le Marsh (pronounced locally Borough). South of the road and a very short distance west of the church in this village is a large round barrow which was, Mr. Phillips informs me, increased in size a century or two ago, probably to form a look-out. This mound, which is known as Cock Hill, was opened in 1933, when it yielded a primary interment of Anglo-Saxon period. The material of the original mound contained quantities of Romano-British pottery. From this it is clear that the mound cannot be earlier in date than the pottery scattered through it. The fragments must have been in the soil at the time the mound was built.

The road north-westwards passes Burgh Station and then continues westwards to Candlesby. Mid-way between Gunby and Candlesby, north of the road, is a long mound which may or may not be a long barrow. Personally, I am inclined to reject it until it has been further studied, although I was

informed by a local inhabitant, of a vague tradition that it was 'thrown up in the wars'.

A mile north of Candlesby is Welton le Marsh, from which is a Roman Road running north-westwards towards Uleebby. Between this road and Skendleby Lodge is a fine long barrow, (one of two known as the Giants' Hills) which was opened in 1933-4 by Mr. C. W. Phillips. It was shown to have a ditch not only on the flank-sides but also round the ends, except for a very narrow causeway in one part. Evidence of complicated wooden structures was found in the mound. The primary burial consisted of the remains of no less than eight persons, seven of whom were male adults, the remaining being a child of two. Four of the burials were in the crouching position, the other four consisting of bones thrown in at random. These burials were under the eastern end of the mound, which was larger than the western end. A very fine scale model of this long barrow, showing the excavations and a reconstruction of the original timberwork, is on exhibition at the British Museum, together with some of the finds from the barrow. About 300 yards south-east is the remains of a second long barrow, situated in the middle of a ploughed field slightly lower down the hill. This is the other member of the Giants' Hills.

East of the Giants' Hills is a road turning northwards to Skendleby Salter and Claxby. Between these two villages, and north of the road, are two fine long barrows, both tree-covered, on separate spurs of a hill. In outward appearance these barrows are among the most interesting on the Wolds. Each is a typical long barrow in a fairly good state of preservation. They are known as the Deadmen's Graves.

South of Fordington to the west are two mounds among medieval earthworks which represent a village-site. Although these two mounds are marked on the maps as tumuli, it is possible that they are medieval and form part of the village-site.

Rather more than a mile farther west is the long barrow known as Spellow Hills (anciently spell lion, lion probably meaning hill). This mound has been badly mutilated and bears a superficial resemblance to three round barrows. The mound is also known as the 'Hills of the Shuin'. Human

bones and 'armour' are said to have been found in it many years ago. In tradition it has been variously regarded as the burial-place of some victims of the plague, and the burial-place of soldiers killed in a mythical 'Battle of Partney', a neighbouring village. Our survey of the barrows in this small area between Burgh le Marsh and Spellow Hills is now brought to a close. It remains to refer to one or two sites in outlying districts.

From Uleeby Cross is a road leading north-westwards to Louth. On the north-east side of this road, in a plantation between Swahy and Walmsgate, is a large long barrow, the largest in the county.

Farther north-west, between Haugham and Tathwell, is a fine group of round barrows, the finest in the county. They are seven in number, and are situated on Bully Hill. North of Haugham are two more.

(2) THE YORKSHIRE WOLDS

It is regrettable that the Yorkshire acres were not sufficiently broad to enable one small portion of the Wolds to be protected from the ravages of the plough, and converted into a kind of barrow-sanctuary. As it is, there is hardly a barrow that has not been under cultivation in recent times. If Lincolnshire is the most ploughed county in England, the Yorkshire Wolds are surely the most *barrow*-ploughed area anywhere.

It is fortunate, however, that we have in the works of Greenwell and Mortimer an accurate account of their excavations and findings in at least five hundred of these ploughed barrows on the Wolds; a small number of other barrows have also been opened by other workers.

It is the purpose of the following notes to select a few of the more interesting of these mounds, especially those still existing, and to describe their features and contents. At the outset it may be stated that the magnificent series of researches and excavations by Greenwell and Mortimer have probably tended to make the barrows on the Yorkshire Wolds appear more important than they really are. At the

same time the abundance of beakers and food vessels makes it plain that the region in question *was* important.

Let us pass in review a few significant sites on the Wolds, starting from the south-west and working towards the north-east.

On the western slope of the Wolds between North Grimston and Menethorpe is Hedon Howe, a barrow very unusual in these parts by reason of the fact that it originally contained five stone cists, the most perfect of which is at the Mortimer Museum, Hull (though not at present on view). These five cists were arranged in the form of a cross. As all the cists except the central one had the outer slab 'removed or partly removed', one wonders whether these structures were closed-in cists or chambers leading from the margin of the mound (compare the fine Mimming Low, described in Part II, Chapter XVI). The Hedon Howe cists contained contracted skeletons with food vessels and beakers.

Some six miles east of Hedon Howe is the fine barrow known as Howe Hill, or Duggleby Howe, south of village of that name. This is one of the very few barrows that are still in good preservation. It is an enormous round barrow about 42 yards in diameter and over 20 feet in height, and is situated in a small field under grass. It has the distinction of being one of the extremely rare round burrows which have strong affinities with the Neolithic culture. It was opened in 1890 by Mortimer, who found in it ten primary burials of flexed skeletons, surmounted by no less than 53 human cremations, doubtless of victims sacrificed at the funeral of the people represented by the skeletons. These cremations were without urns and no grave-goods of any consequence were associated. There were doubtless many more cremations in the unexcavated parts of the mound. All these cremations and skeletons were sealed in by a layer of blue Kimmeridge clay which in its turn was covered by a thick layer of chalk rubble completing the mound.

Among the grave-goods deposited with the skeletons were a beautiful chipped axe polished at the cutting edge, a finely-worked diamond-shaped arrow-head, a magnificent polished flint knife, which Sir John Evans declared to be the finest he had ever seen, and a round-bottomed pottery vessel of Neo-

lithic type. The latter is perhaps the most significant find of all from this barrow. The human skeletons found were all typically of the long barrow type, representing a long-headed people of short stature (5 feet 6 inches).

We have therefore in this round barrow a primary interment of ten skeletons of Neolithic type, associated with a round-bottomed vessel of Neolithic culture. On the other hand, the flint implements, especially the polished flint knife and the polished axe (which is concave-sided and resembles a copy in flint of a flat copper or bronze axe) may well be of the Early Bronze Age. The facts of this most interesting and important barrow are best accounted for by assuming a fusion of long and round barrow people, and a fusion of their cultures.

Remarkably similar in external form to Duggleby Howe is Willy Howe near Wold Newton about twelve miles east-north-east. Willy Howe was considered by Greenwell to be the largest barrow on the Yorkshire Wolds. But an example at the foot of Garrowby Hill, which I have not seen, is larger, though its artificial origin is not proved. Willy Howe is about 60 yards in diameter and 24 feet high, and is tree-covered. The top of the mound is badly mutilated. The mound may perhaps be slightly oval in form. It was opened without result by Lord Londesborough in 1857, and again in 1887 by Greenwell, who found at the centre an oval grave sunk through the solid chalk to a depth of over 12 feet. This grave, although undisturbed, contained no burial, and Greenwell concluded that Willy Howe was therefore a cenotaph barrow, 'thrown up merely to commemorate, and not to contain the body of, some great personage'.

The folk-lore of Willy Howe has already been given fully in the chapter on Folk-lore, page 55.

An account of Wold barrows would be incomplete without a reference to the Early Iron Age grave-mound clusters that were formerly visible near Arras and Hessleskew east of Market Weighton, and at the Danes' Graves about four miles north of Driffield. The latter consisted of several hundred small circular mounds mostly between 4 and 8 yards in diameter and between 1 and 3 feet high, some of them surrounded by a ditch. These mounds were clustered thickly together. Excavation in them by Greenwell, Mortimer and

others, showed them to cover skeletons some of which were so greatly contracted as to suggest that they may have been bound. Associated with some of the skeletons were pottery vessels, some of which contained the bones of pigs. Pottery vessels from the Danes' Graves are in the British Museum. A few of the more important Early Iron Age barrows on the Yorkshire Wolds contained burials accompanied by iron chariots. As a class these grave-mound clusters on the Wolds belong to the later part of the Early Iron Age, known as the La Tène period. Some of the Danes' Graves north of Driffield are still visible.

Of particular interest is a group of three average-sized round barrows within a few hundred yards of the edge of Gristhorpe cliff, between Scarborough and Filey. It was from the central of these mounds that a celebrated burial was found in 1834. In that year W. Beswick of Gristhorpe excavated this barrow and found in it a tree-trunk coffin in a remarkably good state of preservation. It is of oak and is 7 feet long. At one end of the lid is a rude carving of what may be a representation of the human face. Inside this coffin was a perfectly preserved skeleton of a fully grown man, together with the remains of a wooden dish or basket, some hair belonging to the skin in which the body was wrapped, an early Bronze Age bronze dagger, a bone awl, and three worked flints. All these objects now form the most important exhibit in the Scarborough Museum.

Burials in oak tree-trunk coffins such as this are common in Scandinavia, and the Gristhorpe example, being situated so near the east coast, may perhaps bespeak Scandinavian influence. On the other hand there is an important group of tree-trunk coffin-burials under barrows in Wiltshire which may be native. But there is no doubt that Scandinavian influence was felt on the east coast of Yorkshire.

It is unfortunate that the extreme scarcity of unploughed sites on the Wolds renders a good barrow-jant impossible. The ramblor who desires to get a glimpse of this country and to see a few good ancient sites is recommended to start his walk from Rudston, where the Roman remains recently exposed may be seen, and where is situated a very large standing stone near the church. A walk of about three miles

brings the Rambler to Thwing, rather more than a mile north of which is the celebrated Willy Howe, near one of the little streams known as Gypsy Race. A mile to the west is Wold Newton where a halt may be made for refreshments at the Anvil Inn, or the fine guest-house at Wold Newton Hall. The custom of playing games every Shrove Tuesday on the barrow known as Bull Hill, south of Wold Newton, has already been referred to in the Folk-lore chapter. A monument south-west of the village marks the site where a meteorite fell, which is now in the Natural History Museum, London.

A walk of rather more than a mile to the north leads to the tiny village of Fordon, reputed the smallest in Yorkshire. Continuing northwards the Rambler passes near Danebury Manor and east of a barrow known as Elf Howe, and eventually comes to the escarpment above Folkton, from which is a magnificent view of the sea, the cliffs near Gristharpe (where the tree-trunk burial was found), and the Yorkshire Moors, which form the subject of the next and last chapter of this work.

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Hull Museum (Mortimer Collection).

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HOWE HILL, DUGGLEBY, YORKS E.R.

A round barrow, the grave-goods and skeletons from which are of Neolithic culture



**FLAT HOWE, SLEIGHTS MOOR, CLEVELAND, YORKS N.R., SHOWING
THE ORIGINAL PERISTALITH**

A round barrow bordered by a circle of stones



CHAPTER XVIII

THE YORKSHIRE MOORS

The moors may well be called the 'Land of Barrows' . . . I estimate that the total number of barrows yet studding the uplands of north-east Yorkshire cannot be less than 10,000. In the past there may have been as many more.

ELGAR, *Early Man in North-East Yorkshire*, p. 120

It was Thomas Hardy who remarked of his Egdon Heath in Wessex that 'in the heath's barrenness to the farmer lay its fertility to the historian'. Of no country is this truer than the Yorkshire Moors which are now to be described. They are so barren and desolate that if Cobbett had seen them he would have said they were 'worse than Bagshot Heath'—from the farmer's point of view. Yet there is no more prolific area in the North of England for the archaeologist.

As walking country the Moors possess a great lure. Except where clearances have been made for turf-cutting, they are almost entirely covered by a carpet of soft heather, locally called *ling*; the hilltops, ridges, or '*Riggs*' as they are locally called, are almost invariably crowned with barrows which are locally known as *hones*. The chief other occupants of the Moors are the sheep which roam over them in all directions, and the grouse. The prospective searcher after antiquities will be well advised to avoid tramping these moors during the grouse-shooting season (12th August till 10th December).

In common with most heath-country, the Moors contain very few long barrows, those that exist being on the southern fringe, especially on the limestone hills between Pickering and Scarborough. Burials with beakers are equally rare, and those accompanied by food vessels are almost absent.

The Moors do not therefore appear to have been inhabited

to any extent until the Middle Bronze Age, that is from about 1500 B.C. onwards.

Broadly speaking, the houses of this region are of two kinds—large ones placed singly or in small groups, and very small ones grouped thickly in clusters.

The large ones are sometimes very impressive, a particularly fine example being the easternmost member of Robin Hood Butts, about two miles north of Danby in Cleveland. Of special interest are several examples neatly edged round at the base with a peristalith or ring of stones. The finest peristalith-harrows I have ever seen are in Cleveland, especially Flat Howe and Robbed Howe on Sleights Moor, and one of the Foster Howes on Whinstone Ridge, north-east of Goathland. Atkinson described some houses with peristaliths on Guisborough Moor north-west of Danby, but the writer has not yet seen them. All these large houses that have been opened with result have yielded cremations, apparently all of Middle or Late Bronze Age.

The small houses are grouped very thickly in clusters. The largest group known is on Shooting House Rigg near the pond known as Foul Sike, about four miles south-west of Robin Hood's Bay. This group consists of about 1300 tiny grave-mounds, but these are very poorly preserved and it is easy to walk over the ground without noticing them. Perhaps the best large group is on Danby Rigg; this contains about 820 examples, mostly in a good state of preservation. These will be described in more detail shortly. These tiny houses are each between 3 and 6 yards in diameter and between 6 inches and 2 feet high, and are composed of loose stones and earth. Many of them were opened by Atkinson who found in them nothing but bits of charcoal. He assumed that they must have originally covered skeleton-burials which have entirely decayed. It will be recalled by some readers that while burnt bones are almost indestructible, unburnt skeletons will perish very quickly if interred in the sandy soil of a moorland area such as this. At the same time it must be admitted that the sepulchral origin of these enormous numbers of tiny circular mounds has not yet been proved; but it is difficult to understand what else they can be.

One thing is certain: if they are burial-cairns they repre-

sent a departure from the custom of erecting barrows only over the remains of persons of eminence. If these are barrows, as is certainly probable, they are the graves of the common people of a prehistoric age. If they belong to the Bronze Age, they may perhaps be regarded as the forerunners of the grave-mound clusters of Early Iron Age and Saxon times. But the Cleveland grave-mound clusters may well belong to a period later than the Bronze Age.

DANBY

It is now proposed to describe in greater detail some of the antiquities of a small area round Danby, the parish of which Canon J. C. Atkinson was vicar from 1847 till his death in 1900 at the age of 85. During those 53 years of residence in Danby, Atkinson spent a great deal of time collecting every scrap of information he could obtain relative to the customs, traditions, archaeology, history, geology, and other aspects of the study of his immediate surroundings. The results of his studies were his *Glossary of the Cleveland Dialect*, *History of Cleveland*, a large number of articles in the *Gentlemen's Magazine*, and his delightful and popular *Forty Years in a Moorland Parish*. The latter work is a classic. He maintained that the many days he and his family spent barrow-digging were among the happiest of his life.

My wife and a friend or two, together with two or three of my elder lads—boys from ten to fourteen years old—besides the working men, were the party. And we all of us worked. The boys had their small spades. I marked out the work, and directed it; . . . the moment any of the recognized signs of an approach to what might prove to be a deposit were observed, the vicar was warned; and all the work of . . . carefully groping and feeling for, and finally extracting, the precious and probably broken or crushed, as well as frail, earthen vessel was his exclusive province.

No happier excavation-party can be pictured than this enthusiastic vicar with his wife and children assisting him in the explorations which he so lovingly and carefully pursued. If some of his excavation-methods fell short of the very exacting demands of modern archaeology, it can truly be said that Canon Atkinson did his level best, in the face of many handicaps, not least of which was that of being 60

miles distant from 'any collection of books worthy to be named a library'. His collection of pottery and other antiquities from the barrows is now in the British Museum. His church, nearly two miles from Danby village, was restored by his friends and parishioners as a memorial to him in 1903, and he is buried in the south-west part of the churchyard. During a recent visit to Danby the writer had the pleasure of meeting some elderly residents who remembered 'the Canon' as he was called.

A 'houe-hunt' may well be started by walking from Danby End southwards through Ainthorpe and past the Fox and Hounds Inn and then ascending Danby Rigg, by the track known as Old Wife's Stones Road. 'Old Wife' is thought to have been the Goddess of Winter. This road leads to the vast necropolis of about 820 tiny hoes on the northern spur of Danby High Moor. Each mound averages about 5 yards in diameter and a foot or two high, and is composed of loose stones and earth, the stones being mostly between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter. These cairns present quite a venerable appearance, the interstices between the stones being covered with limg and many of the stones themselves covered with lichen.

Among these cairns are several standing stones, perhaps the 'Old Wife's Stones' from which the ridge-track is named. One of these stones, much thicker than the others, is on the circumference of a truncated barrow, or (more doubtfully) on a ring of loose earth and stones forming a circle, bisected by the track. The hollow grooves down this stone are probably due to rain-water forming runnels down it. This circle or barrow contained at the centre two urns inverted over burnt bones.

Farther south is a mutilated large barrow with a peristalith or retaining wall of stones. It will be noticed that, as occurs frequently, the stones of this retaining wall point outwards. This may be due to the weight of the material of the original barrow pressing against the outer ring of retaining stones and forcing them outwards. Originally the stones of the peristalith may have sloped inwards and rested against the sides of the original barrow, as they still do frequently on Dartmoor.

Slightly south of this mutilated barrow is an entrenchment

very rudely constructed of stones and earth. This trench marks the southern limit of the really prolific part of the necropolis. Between this single entrenchment and the Double Dike nearly half a mile southwards, is a fine earthen circle with three stones standing on the circumference. The circle consists of a bank of stones and earth about a foot high and 8 feet wide, and the diameter of the circle is about 25 yards. The fine Double Dike to the south of this is crowned by about seven upright stones, five of which are together. It is supposed to have originally been crowned by stones set at frequent intervals along its entire course.

South of Double Dikes there appear to be few or no clusters of tiny houses, but there are three large ones, two of which are known as Pind Houses and the third and most southerly is called Wolf Pit. Two miles south-west of Wolf Pit tumulus are the three 'Western Houses'. These were opened by Atkinson who found in one of them a cinerary urn containing a polished granite axe, an incense cup, and some burnt bones. North of Western Houses is a single house called 'Stone Rock Hill' or 'Stone Rook Hill', in which Atkinson found a very fine and carefully ornamented cinerary urn inside which were a smaller urn and an incense cup. The walk northwards over Castleton Rigg is well worth while if only for the grand views exposed of Danby Dale and Danby Rigg to the east. On the extreme northern spur of Castleton Rigg is a large standing stone, bigger than some neighbouring modern stones, which marks the site of Gallow House, formerly the site of a gallows. This house was exceptional in containing a large stone cist placed within a circle of standing stones.

The most interesting houses north of the road between Comondale and Danby End are those with peristaliths on Guisborough and Skelton Moors (which I have not seen, but mention on the excellent authority of Atkinson); those between Comondale and Girrick Moor, especially Robin Hood Butts; and those near Danby Beacon from which there is a magnificent view to the south. Herd Howe near Robin Hood Butts is said to be so-called from the tradition of a hoard of treasure having been buried beneath it; the mound was opened by Atkinson who found therein no less than 16 separate interments.

This account of the Yorkshire Moors would be incomplete without a reference, however brief, to the fine work done recently in the moors of the West Riding by Dr. A. Raistrick, who has placed on record stone circles in that area, as well as some most interesting circles with central tumps, which may be on a parallel with the disc-barrows of Wessex. Ilkley Moor is apparently particularly prolific from this standpoint. Interested readers are referred to Dr. Raistrick's papers quoted in the literature at the end of this chapter.

LITERATURE :

*Atkinson, J. C. : *Forty Years in a Moorland Parish*, especially pp. 135-52 and 213-34.

Atkinson, J. C. : Articles in *Gentlemen's Magazine Library, Archaeology*, vol. 1., pp. 201-63.

Atkinson, J. C. : *History of Cleveland*, chapter 4, pp. 33-41.

*Elgee, F. : *Early Man in North-East Yorkshire*, especially chapters 10 and 14.

Elgee, F. and H. W. : *Archaeology of Yorkshire, 1933*, chapter 6. *For West Yorkshire Moors :*

Raistrick, A. : 'Bronze Age in W. Yorkshire' (*Yorks Arch. Journal*, vol. 29) ; 'Prehistoric Burials' (*Yorks A.J.*, vol. 30).

*Specially recommended.

MAPS :

1-inch O.S. *Popular Edition*. Sheets 16, 22 and 23.

6-inch O.S. *Yorkshire, North Riding*. Sheets 29, 30, 44, 45 and 46.

APPENDIX I

BRIEF NOTES ON MISCELLANEOUS REGIONS

(1) *Exmoor*. Challacombe a good centre; Chapman Barrows; Five Barrows and Two Barrows near Kinsford Gate; barrows near Dunkery Beacon (*Tourists' Map of Exmoor*).

(2) *Farway and Gittisham Hills*, south of Honiton, Devon. Nearly ninety sites, mostly barrows, described by P. O. Hutchinson in *Proceedings of Devonshire Association*, vol. 12. They are all round barrows, and not very prepossessing to look at. One or two have yielded shale cups of Early Bronze Age.

(3) *Therfield and Hitchin*.—The Six Hills (? Roman), south of Stevenage; the Five Hills on Therfield Heath; Long Barrow on Therfield Heath. Several round barrows near Royston, some of which were opened and described by R. C. Neville (*Sepulchra Exposita*, 1848). See C. Fox, *Archæology of the Cambridge Region*, 1923. Many more barrow-sites in this area appear on unpublished air-photographs taken by Major G. W. G. Allen, M.C.

(4) *Long Mynd, near Church Stretton*, Shropshire.—A group of rather more than twenty barrows spread over a stretch of down about 5 miles long near the Port Way, described by E. S. Cobbold (*Church Stretton*, vol. 3, pp. 33-51). Miss L. F. Chitty first informed me of this region, which is one of scenic beauty.

(5) *The Lake District*.—Between Penrith and Hawes Water are a number of interesting sites, including the circles known as Myburgh and Arthur's Round Table; some barrows on Moor Divoek which were opened by Greenwell; the Cop Stone, a stone circle, &c. To the west is 'Long Meg and her Daughters' (stone circle) near Keswick. (*Tourists' Map of the Lake District*.)

APPENDIX II

A BRIEF LIST OF WORKS ON BARROWS

A. GENERAL.

- Greenwell : *British Barrows*, 1877.
 Thurman : 'Ancient British Barrows' (*Archæologia*, vols. 42-3).
 Jewitt : *Grave-mounds and their Contents*, 1870.

B. ENGLISH COUNTIES.

- BERKSHIRE. 'Berkshire Barrows', by L. V. Grinsell (*Berksh Arch. Journal*, 1935-6).
 CORNWALL. *Naenia Cornubiæ*, by W. C. Borlase, 1872.
 DERBYSHIRE. *Ten Years' Diggings, and Vestiges of the Antiquities of Derbyshire*, both by Thos. Bateman.
 DEVONSHIRE. 'Devon Association Annual Barrow Reports', by R. H. Worth.
 DORSET. *Celtic Tumuli of Dorset*, by C. Warne.
 GLOUCESTERSHIRE. *Long Barrows of the Cotswolds*, by O. G. S. Crawford.
 KENT. *Inventorium Sepulchrale* (Faussett) and *Nenia Britannica* (Douglas).
 SURREY. 'Surrey Barrows', by L. V. Grinsell (*Surrey Arch. Collections*, vol. 42).
 SUSSEX. 'Sussex Barrows', by L. V. Grinsell (*Sussex Arch. Collections*, vol. 75).
 WILTSHIRE. *Ancient Wills*, by Sir R. C. Hoare.
 'Ancient British Barrows', by J. Thurman (*Archæologia*, vols. 42 and 43).
 YORKSHIRE. Greenwell : *British Barrows*, 1877.
 Mortimer : *Forty Years' Researches*.
 Elgee : *Early Man in North-East Yorkshire*.

GLOSSARY

- Barrow.**—A mound of earth or stones erected over the burial of one or more human beings.
- Beaker.**—A hand-made pottery vessel used by a round-headed race (called the *Beaker Folk* after their pottery) who came to Britain about 1000 B.C. Beakers flourished between 1000 and 1700 B.C. and were frequently buried in barrows, with unburnt burials in the contracted position.
- Bell-Barrow.**—A round barrow having a more or less flat ledge between the mound and the encircling ditch.
- Berm.**—The platform or ledge between the mound and ditch of bell- and disc-barrows.
- Bowl-Barrow.**—A round barrow with or without a ditch. If the ditch is present it is immediately outside of the mound. If an intervening ledge is present the barrow is a *Bell-Barrow*.
- Bronze Age.**—The period (1000 B.C. till about 600 or 500 B.C.) during which bronze was used for making some of the implements used by man before he had a knowledge of the use of iron.
- Cairn.**—A barrow composed largely or entirely of stones. The word is also used (but not in this book) to denote a heap of stones which has no connexion with barrows and is not necessarily ancient.
- Chamber.**—A stone receptacle made to contain one or more burials, generally having an entrance leading from the margin of the mound, or from a passage from the margin of the mound. Chambers are generally very much larger than cists, but there is no hard and fast division between chambers and cists.
- Cinerary Urn.**—An urn made to contain a human cremation. The urn may be of hand-made pottery (Bronze Age), wheel-made pottery (Early Iron Age or Saxon), or glass (Roman).
- Cist.**—A pit or receptacle for a burial. It differs from most chambers in having no entrance. It is four-sided and entirely closed up like a box, and is normally much smaller than the burial-chamber.
- Disc-Barrow.**—A barrow consisting of a large circular platform with one or more tiny mounds in the area, the platform being surrounded by a ditch and bank. The bank is nearly always outside the ditch.
- Food vessel.**—A hand-made pottery vessel deposited with either burnt or unburnt burials. Food vessels are fairly common in the north of England but are rare in the south.

Grave-mound (cluster).—A term used to denote the very small barrows erected sometimes singly but generally in clusters during the Early Iron Age and the Saxon period.

Hone, Howe.—A term used chiefly in Yorkshire to denote a barrow.

Incense cup.—A small vessel generally with holes in the sides, found with some burnt burials. It was probably used in the rite of cremation, during the Early and Middle Bronze Age (1600-900 B.C.).

Inhumation.—Burial of part or all of the skeleton, unburnt.

Iron Age, or Early Iron Age.—A period between the Bronze Age and the Roman period; that portion of the pre-Roman period during which the use of iron was known (550 B.C.—circa 55 A.D.).

Kistvaen.—A stone cist. This term was widely used by eighteenth and nineteenth century antiquaries and is still prevalent in certain areas especially in the west, notably on Dartmoor; but the term is archaic and will probably fall out of use and be replaced by *stone cist*.

Long Barrow.—A burial-mound originally probably rectangular but now generally weathered into an elongated oval shape. Nearly all long barrows belong to the Neolithic, or New Stone Age.

Neolithic Age.—The New Stone Age, after the Ice Age and before the Bronze Age.

Peristalith (accent on the second syllable).—A row of stones set round the margin of some long and round barrows. Round barrows with peristaliths are common on the Yorkshire Moors.

Platform-Barrow.—A round barrow with a flat top.

Primary Burial.—The original burial for which a barrow was first erected.

Ring-mound (-barrow).—An earthen bank arranged in a circular form, generally having a ditch inside or outside of the bank. Some are barrows and some are not.

Round Barrow.—A circular burial-mound, used during all periods from the earliest Bronze Age to Saxon times. A surrounding ditch may or may not be present.

Secondary Burials.—Burials subsequent or subordinate to that for which the barrow was made.

Stone Age.—The period during which the use of metals was unknown (see also *Neolithic Age*).

Tumulus (plural *tumuli*).—A barrow (or barrows). Barrows are marked as tumuli on nearly all the Ordnance Survey maps. Some writers use the word *tumulus* to denote a mound of any kind whether sepulchral or not, and confine the word *barrow* to proved burial-mounds. *Tumulus* is Latin for a mound. *Tumular* = (an area) prolific in tumuli.

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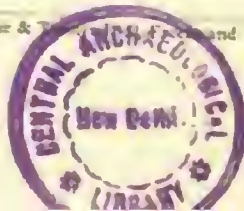
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